

ARAB TIMES

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A Palestinian hurls a rock with a sling during a demonstration on the outskirts of Hebron in the direction of Halhoul. (Reuter wirephoto)

Gaza mayor quits as three more die

TEL AVIV, March 26, (Reuter): Three more Palestinians died from Israeli bullets today amid widespread protests in occupied areas and the resignation of the Israeli-appointed mayor of Gaza, Arab sources said.

They said Majed Hussein Dheeb, 19, was shot dead during clashes with the Army in Kifl Thith near Nablus and that the Army immediately snatched his body.

Hospital officials said Awad Qassem Ibrahim, 30, died on the operating table after he was shot by troops during the demonstration.

An Army spokesman confirmed that one Palestinian died in

hospital following a demonstration in Kifl Thith in which protesters hurled stones, metal bars and bottles at soldiers.

"The Army patrol was attacked from all over and they had to shoot to save their lives," the spokesman said.

He said another Palestinian was wounded by gunfire and the Army was still checking Arab reports that a second protester was shot dead.

A military spokesman earlier confirmed that a Palestinian identified as 21-year-old Ayed Salch, died of gunshot wounds suffered last night during demonstrations near Zawata village in which protesters blocked roads and hurled stones at Israeli cars.

The killings raised to 110 the number of Palestinians who have died during a 15-week-old uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. One Israeli soldier has also been killed during the violence.

Palestinian sources said Gaza mayor Hanza Turkamni resigned on Thursday in response to calls from the underground leadership of the uprising.

Israeli military censors delayed publication of the news, announced only today, for several hours.

Rashad Shawwa, a deposed Palestinian mayor of Gaza, said Turkamni was an employee in the Interior Ministry appointed by the Israelis to act as mayor.

He said of his resignation: "It is going in line with what has been going on for the past four months."

In the 11th leaflet issued by the United National Leadership of the Uprising last week, March 26 was declared a day of struggle against all non-elected town, village and refugee camp council members who refused to resign.

The leaflet urged "the masses to severely punish all those who do not comply with the national consensus and refuse to resign."

Slogans

In the town of El-Bireh, hundreds of Palestinians hurled stones at the municipality building, carried placards and shouted slogans calling on the local council to resign, Arab sources said.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) said a boy of 17 was seriously wounded during clashes with the Army in Sair village near Hebron.

Newspapers said Hebron was declared a closed military area and roads leading to Ramallah from Jerusalem had restricted access. The Army said it was checking the report.

In Bethlehem, where a soldier was the first Israeli to die last Sunday in the uprising, about 100 youths hurled stones and bottles at the police station from rooftops and set fire to tyres in the streets, eyewitnesses said.

They said troops fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition during two hours of clashes in the alleys of Bethlehem, where slogans on the walls called on municipal workers to resign.

(Continued on Page 2)

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around 10°C with moderate to fresh north-westerly wind causing dust. State of sea: moderate to rough. High water: 9.00 am, 5.30 pm. Low water: 2.00 am, 12.30 pm. Sunrise: 5.44 am. Sunset: 6.14 pm. Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 31°C 88°F. Ahmadi: 23°C 73°F. Falak: 28°C 82°F. Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 27°C 81°F. Ahmadi: 22°C 72°F. Falak: 24°C 75°F. Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 15°C 59°F. Ahmadi: 18°C 64°F. Falak: 17°C 63°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 38 per cent. Ahmadi: 85 per cent. Falak: 88 per cent. Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 45 per cent. Ahmadi: 70 per cent. Falak: 75 per cent.

(Continued on Page 2)

US Secretary of State to visit Mideast again

Shultz holds talks with Palestinians

WASHINGTON, March 26, (Agencies): Secretary of State George Shultz met today with two members of a group affiliated with the PLO. The State Department said Shultz will go to the Middle East next week to again push a US peace initiative.

Professors Edward Said of Columbia University and Ibrahim Abu Lughud met for more than an hour with Shultz at his invitation. The two professors are members of the Palestine National Council, the parliament-in-exile of the PLO.

Arrange

"We coaxed to Secretary Shultz the urgent need to lift Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza as a preparatory step on the road to achieving peaceful coexistence between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews," Said said after the meeting. The professor earlier said he had been in touch with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat about the session with Shultz.

The secretary, whose last Mideast peace-seeking trip was a month ago, has been trying if he received permission from Arafat to attend the session, Said

replied he did not need such a "green light."

He added, however, "we did notify chairman Arafat, and that was fine with him—absolutely." He said he and Abu Lughud were interested in "an exchange of views" with Shultz. They want to know more about the US proposals for Arab-Israeli negotiations and "we're going to tell him about the Palestinians' view of the matter," Said said yesterday.

Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad protested Shultz's invitation to the two as in conflict with a 13-year US policy against dealing with the PLO, which is pledged to dismantling Israel as a Jewish state.

Shuttle

For several weeks, Shultz has been trying to open negotiations by May 1 to provide self-rule for the Palestinians and move toward an overall Middle East peace agreement. The plan, designed to overcome Israeli objections to talking to the PLO, envisages participation in talks by PLO-approved Palestinians as part of a Jordanian delegation.

None of the parties in the region has accepted the plan.

Permission

Under US law, administration officials are barred from meeting with PLO officials, but Mrs Oakley stressed that the two guests are US citizens and said the meeting did not represent a change in US policy.

Asked by telephone yesterday if he received permission from Arafat to attend the session, Said

(Continued on Page 2)

Baghdad vows to fight 'with all available weapons'

Missiles fired at Tehran

NICOSIA, March 26, (Agencies): Iraq fired two long-range missiles into Tehran today and vowed to "level" Iranian cities as the two Gulf war foes battled for mastery of the Kurdish mountains, just east of key Iraqi oilfields.

President Saddam Hussein summoned Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council to a meeting that declared Baghdad was resolved to fight "with all available weapons" until Tehran agrees to a settlement of the 7 1/2-year-old war.

The RCC statement stopped short of an outright admission that Iraqi troops have used outlawed poison gas while combating Iran's slow advance in the unprecedented month-old inter-city missile duels that have killed hundreds of civilians.

Tehran says it fired 43 such projectiles into Baghdad, a city of five million, and dozens into other Iraqi cities since Feb. 29.

Bombed

Tehran radio reported that Iraqi warplanes bombed residential sections of the western city of Iram today.

The Iranian agency said Iranian fighter-bombers attacked troop concentrations in northeast Iraq, where Iranian Revolutionary Guards were reported thrusting into the Kurdish mountains just east of Iraq's vital Kirkuk oilfields.

It said other Iranian warplanes "heavily homed" Iraqi troop concentrations and defence lines around the strategic southern port of Basra.

It was the third straight day the Iraqis have hit that sector. An

estimated 250,000 Revolutionary Guards and "Basij," or volunteers, have been massed east of Basra for weeks for a long-awaited offensive.

Baghdad radio reported three Iranian warplanes were shot down as they tried to bomb targets in the embattled Kurdistan province today. All three were US-built F-5s, it said.

Downed

Iran reported a Soviet-built Iraqui Sukhoi SU-22 was downed today.

Iraq said its Air Force, which outnumbers Iran's by 8-1, flew 343 combat missions, the highest one-day total in a year, yesterday.

Most were attacks on Iranian forces in Kurdistan east of Kirkuk oilfields, which produce some 1.5 million barrels of oil a day, or more than half of Iraq's current output.

INA reported shelling on Darbandikhan in northeast Iraq.

Belgium said it would pull its minesweeping force out of the Gulf on July 1 unless the situation dramatically worsened. The ships have been there since last November as part of Western efforts to ensure freedom of navigation.

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UN sending team to Iran to examine gas attack victims

NICOSIA, March 26, (Reuter): The Gulf war focus switched today to diplomatic moves to end the conflict with both sides agreeing to peace talks and signs of growing concern at a mounting death toll from chemical bombs.

The United Nations said two experts would visit Iraq to examine chemical attack victims, while both Tehran and Baghdad accepted invitations to talk peace separately.

Iran and Iraqi opposition Kurds say Baghdad killed 5,000 people and wounded as many again in mustard gas, nerve gas and cyanide shell attacks on the Kurdish town of Halabja last week.

A UN spokesman announced that the team would include a physician and its stay in Tehran would be of short duration.

The UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar has already confirmed his government would send an emissary to New York for separate talks that Perez de Cuellar is planning to hold with representatives of Iran and Iraq, beginning next week.

Mahallati also confirmed his government would send an emissary to New York for separate talks that Perez de Cuellar is planning to hold with representatives of Iran and Iraq, beginning next week.

Mahallati said he did not know the identity of the Iranian special envoy and had not yet been instructed to announce when he would be in New York.

"But definitely our emissary, as has been confirmed by our President (Ali Khamenei), will come," he said.

Perez de Cuellar last week asked Iran to send a senior official for talks with him on March 30 and 31.

Threat to march in the nude

MANILA, March 26, (Reuter): Thousands of bar girls threatened to march nude through Manila to protest against plans to close nightclubs, honky-tonk saloons and discos in the tourist district.

"We will not carry placards," one dancer said. "We will write on our protest to our nude bodies."

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IT'S A WHOLE NEW PICTURE

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"calm and considerate on both sides."

The missiles, with a 2,200-mile (3,500 km) range, can reach Iran, Israel, and parts of the Soviet Union. They could also carry nuclear warheads but both Beijing and Riyadh say they will not be modified to do so.

Syria, Tunisia, Jordan, the PLO and the Organisation of Islamic Conference have also pledged to support Saudi Arabia in the event of any Israeli attack.

Iraq yesterday strongly warned Israel against attacking Saudi Arabia and vowed to deter any such aggression, the Iraqi News Agency said.

The agency would not specify how Iraq planned to "deter" a potential Israeli aggression.

But it said the top Iraqi political and military leadership cited a joint defence pact among Arab countries "in addition to the principled national commitments," in vowing to deter the Israeli threats.

An Israeli official was reportedly last week to have threatened a pre-emptive strike against the Chinese CSS-2 medium-range missiles which Saudi Arabia has purchased.

President Reagan on Friday warned Israel against any such action. A White House spokesman said Washington was urging the Middle East.

Action

He said three or four pieces of space debris enter the earth's atmosphere every month.

"This was different in that it happened over a populated area at night so it put on quite a fireworks display," he said.

He said the sight had been visible from a broad area of Texas and into neighbouring Arkansas.

INTERNATIONAL

Philippine Congress passes land reform measures

MANILA, March 26. (Agencies): The Philippine Congress's two chambers have passed conflicting land reform measures amid threats of violence from peasant and landlord groups.

After six months of bitter debate, the House of Representatives last night unanimously voted for a bill that would break up massive sugar and coconut plantations while allowing owners to retain some of their land, officials said.

"President (Corazon) Aquino will have to play a major part in persuading members of the House of Representatives to soften their stance," Senator Ernesto Macea said.

Peasant groups and trade unions have warned the government of a bloody uprising if the House bill is implemented, while landowners say they would go to war to keep their property.

Under the House bill, owners can keep seven hectares (17 acres) each and three hectares (seven acres) for their children.

The Senate has passed its own bill that would allow owners only five-hectares (12 acres) and their children none.

Officials of the two chambers were expected to form a committee to reconcile their differences and pass a joint measure when they convene after the Easter holidays.

House Speaker Ramon Mita described his chamber's bill as

reasonable and realistic and said it would encourage agricultural production.

The 14 congressmen who originally sponsored the measure said the changes made in it in the House made it a compromise. They withdrew their names from the bill late on Thursday and one of them, Binnifacio Gilleg, said the measure was "a treacherous blow to the future of the peasant masses."

Commission

Meanwhile, Aquino today convened a commission to pave the way for Muslim autonomy in the southern Philippines and warned its members to expect harassment from Muslim secessionist rebels.

Aquino flew to Cotahato City in the heart of Mindanao island, one of the country's 5 million Muslims, to swear in the 44 members of the commission, which is to assist Congress in the enactment of an autonomy law.

The ceremonies came one day after six people were killed in clashes between rival Muslim rebel groups fighting for Muslim rule in Mindanao and the Sulu island chain farther south since 1972.

Aquino also ordered an investigation of charges by an anti-nuclear activist that he was tortured for two days and nights at the headquarters of his security force and his companion murdered.

40 hurt in blasts at fair

DHAKA, March 26. (AP): At least 40 people were injured, including six children, when bombs were set off by robbers at a rural fair in northwestern Bangladesh, police said today.

More than 20 bombs exploded yesterday during the fair in the village of Kaliakandipara, about 88 kilometres (55 miles) northwest of Dhaka, police in the area said by telephone.

A 7-year-old boy and five adults were critically injured, they said. The fair, an annual event in the village, draws thousands of farmers and traders

from the surrounding countryside.

"Some miscreants exploded bombs to loot the carnival," one policeman said. Police said that many stalls set up by traders were robbed, but the amount of money and goods taken was not known. The robbers escaped, they said.

In Dhaka, meanwhile, a 10-year-old boy and his 5-year-old sister were injured last night when a bomb was tossed into their home at Enayetganj, a suburb on the capital's western edge, police said.

The bomb, found in a room at the base of a 70 feet (23 metre) high statue of Buddha in Narathiwat province, was planted by extremists.

The streets in Yerevan and Stepanakert are completely

Sri Lankan fishermen killed by Tamil rebels

COLOMBO, March 26. (Reuters): Bodies of six Muslim fishermen, believed killed by Tamil separatist guerrillas at sea, were found washed ashore today in eastern Sri Lanka, the state radio said.

Nine other men who went fishing with them yesterday from Muttr in the eastern district of Trincomalee, were also feared killed, the radio said quoting official sources.

It said the killings were believed by officials to be part of a campaign by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebel group to sabotage efforts to resettle people displaced by the island's ethnic violence.

The radio said officials had intercepted radio messages from "Tigers" leader Velupillai Prabhakaran to his men to carry out "a campaign of terror" against villagers to sabotage rehabilitation efforts.

The Tigers had killed a Muslim youth in Trincomalee yesterday by slitting his throat, the radio added.

About 2,000 residents of Muttr have sought protection at the Sri Lankan security forces camp there following the killings, the report said.

Officials have blamed the Tigers for the massacre of about 100 Sinhalese in the Trincomalee district since the beginning of this month.

Trincomalee has a mixed population of Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

Political sources said the Tigers' aim was to drive away Sinhalese and Muslims from the eastern region which they claim as part of a Tamil homeland.

Time bomb defused

BANGKOK, March 26. (Reuters): Bomb disposal experts defused a big time bomb with three minutes to spare at a Buddhist shrine in southern Thailand on Thursday, police said.

They believed the 30 pound (14 kg) bomb, found in a room at the base of a 70 feet (23 metre) high statue of Buddha in Narathiwat province, was planted by extremists.

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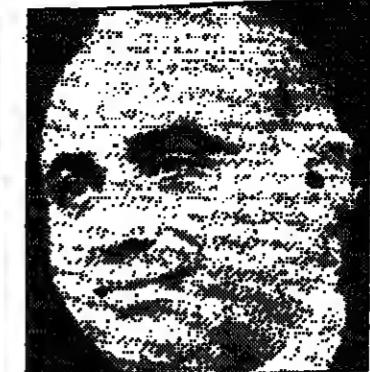
John Pindexter



Oliver North



Richard Secord



Albert Hakim

President's comments could spark legal problems

Reagan declares North innocent

WASHINGTON, March 26. (Reuters): President Reagan, breaking with the tradition of presidential silence on pending criminal trials, has declared the innocence of former aide facing criminal trials over the Iran-Contra arms scandal.

Reagan's comments to students about former aide Oliver North and former National Security Adviser John Pindexter could bring problems, legal experts said.

The Tigers had killed a Muslim youth in Trincomalee yesterday by slitting his throat, the radio added.

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actress Sharon Tate and others. It is the usual American practice that presidents do not comment on pending criminal trials and in the past Reagan has said only that he knew of no laws that were broken.

On Friday, he went much further.

Pleaded

Taking "just one more" question at the end of a meeting with students visiting the White House, Reagan firmly declared North and Pindexter innocent.

"I just have to believe that they're going to be found innocent because I don't think they were guilty of any wrongdoing or any crime," he said.

Reagan would not say whether

"I still think Ollie North is a hero," added Reagan, echoing his 1986 comment to Time magazine shortly after the Iran-Contra scandal broke with the disclosure of secret arms sales to Iran in breach of a US embargo.

North, Pindexter and their co-defendants in the case, retired Air Force General Richard Secord and Iranian-American businessman Albert Hakim, pleaded not guilty on Thursday to charges of conspiracy, theft and fraud.

The theft and fraud charges stem from the alleged diversion of profits from the arms sales to US-backed Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Reagan would not say whether

he might grant pardons to his two former aides. "Any talk about what I might do about pardons or not forth with the case before the courts, that's something I can't discuss right now," he said.

Defrauding

The four defendants were indicted last week on 23 counts of defrauding the US government by diverting the arms sales profits to the Contras.

Their attorneys have vowed to mount a vigorous defence and suggested their strategy might include issuing subpoenas to Reagan and Vice-President George Bush to testify as defence witnesses.

Nationalists' deadline passes

Police patrol deserted streets of Yerevan

MOSCOW, March 26. (Agencies): Police patrolled the near-deserted streets of the Armenian capital of Yerevan today as a deadline set by nationalists for the return of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region to Armenia slipped by.

An Armenian dissident source in Moscow who said he had telephone contact with residents today in Yerevan and Stepanakert, the main town in Nagorno-Karabakh, said he was told nationalists had called off the planned public rally in Yerevan.

Instead Armenians were told to stay indoors to avoid confrontation with police on the streets while registering a protest at the same time.

The streets in Yerevan and Stepanakert are completely

empty. Yerevan is like a ghost town, it is completely empty," said Sergei Grigoryants, editor of the unofficial dissident publication Glasnost. Detained

He said that at least seven nationalist leaders have been detained in the region in the past three days as the deadline approached, apparently in headoff the planned demonstrations.

However a member of the Yerevan Communist Party city committee reached by telephone said the situation in the Armenian capital was "normal" and public transportation was operating. He refused to elaborate or answer any further questions.

A telephone operator said the

telephones at the Armenian Ministry of Internal Affairs offices in Yerevan "have been incorrectly replaced on the receivers" and hence were out of order.

Grigoryants said in Stepanakert itself a general strike by the mostly Armenian population was now in its fourth day.

Attempts to reach other Communist Party officials and residents in Yerevan and Stepanakert by telephone from Moscow to get independent confirmation of the situation was proving difficult.

In Moscow, a huge crowd of Armenians pressing for the return of Nagorno-Karabakh gathered at the Armenian cemetery today, eyewitnesses said.

Police and KGB security

agents had blocked off the entrance to the cemetery, they said, but a crowd could be seen through the gates. About 400 Armenians able to enter the cemetery were also demonstrating a few yards away.

Disbanded

The local press reported that the Armenian supreme Soviet (Parliament) disbanded the Karabakh committee of leading cultural figures, which had been organising the campaign for the return of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Authorities had also detained a number of dissidents in the run-up to today's scheduled protest.

Artists appeared on official local television last night appealing to people to stay calm and not go out.

Arafat told a news conference in Baghdad that the PLO rejects proposals made by Shultz for an international conference next month to pave the way for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute that envisaged limited self-rule for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"America still says 'no' to the PLO, 'no' to the Palestinians' right to self-determination, 'no' to the Palestinian state, 'no' to the representation of the PLO at this conference. We say 'no' to this American position," Arafat declared.

Speaking at his heavily guarded military headquarters in the outskirts of Baghdad, Arafat declined to be drawn on the Washington meeting between Shultz and two members of the Palestine National Council.

Gaza mayor quits as 3 more die

LANSING, Michigan, March 26. (Reuters): Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis held a slender lead over black civil rights campaigner Jesse Jackson in the industrial state of Michigan where Democrats vote today on their preferred candidate for US President.

Among Republicans, the contest for the presidential nomination appeared over, with Vice-President George Bush headed for victory. Even Bush's main rival, Senator Robert Dole, seemed to agree.

Dole said yesterday for the second time this week that it "probably was a forgone conclusion" Bush would secure the 1,139 delegates needed to be the nominee at the party's New Orleans convention in August. A source close to Dole said the Senate Republican leader was going to suspend most campaign activity and travel to concentrate on major policy addresses.

Dole

Democrat vote today at 576 caucus sites in Michigan, a key auto-manufacturing state. Bush won the state's Republican caucus on Jan 29.

Opinion polls showed Dukakis holding a narrow lead over Jackson for Michigan's 138 delegates in the Democratic presidential nominating convention in July.

Nationally, Dukakis has

accumulated the most

convention

delegates, an estimated 559 to 531 for Jackson, though still well short of the 2,082 needed to win the nomination.

Jackson was expected to capture a large black vote in Detroit and other Michigan cities, although Detroit's black mayor Coleman Young backed Dukakis.

A victory for Dukakis

gives him the psychological edge

to propel him toward the nomination, but a loss could slow his momentum and put in doubt his ability to win the blue collar votes.

Dole concedes to Bush

Dukakis and Jackson close in Michigan

MISSOURI, Congressmen Richard Gephardt, who needs a win in Michigan to keep his campaign hopes alive, was running third in polls and senators Albert Gore of Tennessee and Paul Simon of Illinois were still further back.

Dukakis, 54, is seen as an experienced governor and expert manager who generates little excitement, in contrast to the charismatic 46-year-old Jackson, a preacher who electrifies audiences but has never held office.

The Massachusetts governor is generally felt to be in the best position to win forthcoming big industrial state contests, culminating in the June 7 California primary.

Party analysts, however, said he had more at stake in Michigan than Jackson.

A victory for Dukakis could give him the psychological edge to propel him toward the nomination, but a loss could slow his momentum and put in doubt his ability to win the blue collar votes.

Yamani fails to stop biography publication

LONDON, March 26. (AP): Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, former Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, lost his appeal court bid yesterday for a temporary injunction against Monday's official publication of the book "Yamani: The inside story."

Yamani applied for a temporary order blocking Simm and Schuster's release of the book by American author Jeffrey Robinson pending a full hearing next week.

The book is also scheduled to be serialized in the Sunday Express, a London newspaper.

Yamani claimed the author reneged on undertakings not to refer in the book to the Saudi royal family or to the reasons behind his dismissal from the government.

The judge, Lord Donaldson, said a full hearing could not be scheduled until Wednesday. He said it was regrettable when the courts could not act fast enough to "preserve the rights of the parties," but said Yamani should have started court proceedings sooner.

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The book is also scheduled to be serialized in the Sunday Express, a London newspaper.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wire fence

NEW DELHI, March 26. (Xinhua): India will soon erect barbed wire fence along the Indo-Bangladesh border adjoining Assam state, according to an "Indian Express" report yesterday.

Industrial consumption goes up by 8.3 per cent

Demand for electricity rises

By Fathima Ahmed

INDUSTRIAL progress has considerably increased the demand for electricity in Kuwait but domestic consumption still remains high. About 14.6 per cent of total generated electricity is used for industrial purposes while 47.5 per cent is being used in homes.

Electricity consumption for industry rose from 164 mW in 1979 to 287 in 1986, recording a mean annual growth rate of 8.3 per cent, which is about the same as the overall mean rate of 8.4 per cent, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Water's annual statistical year book.

Modernisation

A major portion of electric power was consumed by the industrial regions — Shuaiba, Mina Abdullah, Mina Al Zour, Wafra, Nuwaisib and Kheiran. The Shuaiba power station and its sub-stations supply energy to these regions.

Industrial consumption was expected to rise due to the modernisation of Ahmad and Mina Abdullah refineries. Power con-

sumption jumped from 227 mW in 1986 to 346 mW in 1987.

Despite the expansion and overall rise in energy generation, demand has been rising continually.

This year MEW expects an estimated increase of between seven and 8.3 per cent in the maximum and minimum (high and low) peak loads. This is based on peak electrical loads of 3480 mW in 1986 and 3740 mW in 1987.

The expected estimated minimum (low) peak load is 4000 mW and maximum (high) is 4050 mW this year.

Generation

Last year the combined power generation capacity was 3741 mW. This includes the capacity of Shuaiba station, Shuaiba — North and South, Doha East and Doha West and Az-Zour, which is yet to reach its installed capacity.

The mean per capita share of electrical energy generated has increased 10-fold while total generated energy has grown 88-fold. Over the last three decades (1957

to 1987) electrical load has multiplied 139-fold while the production capacity has risen 191-fold.

The average rate of growth of electrical energy generated over a five-year period shows a steady rise from 1958 to 1962 (28.7 per cent); 1963 to 1967 (26.4 per cent); then a slight fall from 1968 to 1972 (19.7 per cent), and rising again from 1978 to 1982 (14.4 per cent). From 1983 to 1987 the growth rate has been 9.1 per cent.

Expansion

In the last three decades, however, the growth rate of per capita (mean) consumption has declined from 11.5 per cent to 6.3 per cent. Over a five-year period, from 1983 to 1987, it fell to four per cent, stabilising due to "favourable trends in energy conservation and saturation demand." In the 1970s and 1980s, the highest per capita consumption was 7.2 per cent from 1978 to 1982.

At the same time, the rate of electricity generation totalled 8.7 per cent between 1983 and 1987. From 1978 to 1982, the average growth rate was 13.4 per cent and

from 1973 to 1977 it was 11.5 per cent. This was attributed to steady expansion of the power generation network throughout the country.

In the last 30 years per capita consumption of energy rose 10-fold from 1007 kWh to 9,744 kWh last year. There has been nearly a 100 per cent increase in the number of consumers in the last 36 years. Today, there are some 243,202 users. Between 1983 and 1987 consumer growth was at an average rate of 6.6 per cent, down from 5.5 per cent between 1978 and 1982 and 12.4 per cent between 1963 and 1967.

Due to stringent action taken against defaulters, MEW was able to achieve 24.4 per cent increase in revenues from sale of electricity in 1987. The percentage of increase in previous years, for instance 1986, was 2.8 per cent and in 1985, 1.5 per cent.

The total revenue, including that earned from selling brackish and fresh water, rose by 10.9 per cent in 1987, a substantial increase over 1986 when the total revenue was minus 4.4 per cent.

Next OIC meeting to be held in S. Arabia

AMMAN, March 26, (Xinhua): The 17th conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) yesterday decided that the next OIC foreign ministers' meeting will be held in Saudi Arabia next year.

The chairman of the current OIC ministers' meeting, Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher El Masi, announced at the OIC meeting, that the decision was made under Saudi request.

The OIC Foreign ministers' meeting is held annually to discuss the latest issues facing the Islamic World of 46 OIC members.

Masi also announced that the 19th OIC ministerial meeting will be held in Egypt in 1990 during which the 6th Islamic Summit will be held in Senegal.

Syria objected the OIC resolution to hold the 19th ministerial conference in Cairo in 1990, according to a well-informed source here.

Farong Al Shara, Syrian Foreign Minister and head of the Syrian delegation, said his country considers that it is for the OIC to decide the place of the 19th meeting.

Al Shara said that his country has reservation for co-ordinating the 19th OIC ministerial conference in Cairo.

ACO team for Tunis

A DELEGATION of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO), led by the organisation's secretary-general Abdel Aziz Al Ansari yesterday left for Tunis to take part in the meeting of the 27th session of the ACO's permanent office held there March 28 to 30.

Meanwhile, ACO's director-general Taleb Al Taher said that during the session, the conferees will discuss a report on the actions of the fund for the development of Arab cities, loans granted by the fund and projects executed through these loans.

Al Taher said that the office will examine means of backing the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories against the Israeli occupation.

Building materials prices increase

A KUWAITI daily newspaper has interviewed a number of Kuwaitis who have opted to take a building plot and a government loan rather than a National Housing Authority house. The majority of those interviewed complained that the recent rise in the price of building materials had made it very difficult for them to complete their houses within the 54,000 dinar loan available from the Kuwait Credit and Savings Bank.

Intervene

Mohammed Hussein Ahmad told the paper that the most commonly used type of brick is the white brick, which used to be KD76 per ton just five months ago, but has now soared to KD 170 per ton. He said that surveyors used to charge half a dinar per square metre, but now most of them would not settle for less than 800 fils, and that tile-layers had increased their charges from 600

fils per square metre to KD 1,250.

A retired man, Naser Sultan Al Naser, who is building his own house, told the newspaper that the labour costs per house used to be about 12,000 dinars. Nowadays, however, there is a great shortage of labourers who have to be recruited through companies who are profiting from the situation by charging impossible prices.

Labourers

Supporting Ahmad's opinion, Abdullah Al Naser added that the price of steel used to be KD76 per ton just five months ago, but has now soared to KD 170 per ton. He said that surveyors used to charge half a dinar per square metre, but now most of them would not settle for less than 800 fils, and that tile-layers had increased their charges from 600

Uprising a turning point in Palestinian struggle

ARAB League Assistant Secretary-General, Abdulmumin Zalzala, yesterday said that the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied Palestine has succeeded in re-surfacing the Palestinian question at an international level.

In a statement to Syyassah, Zalzala described the Palestinian uprising as "a birth of new generation and a new will and it is a basic turning point in the struggle of the Palestinian people."

He pointed out that Arab League delegation including him and member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation executive committee Mahmoud Abbas' coming visit to Riyadh comes up on assignment of the Arab League extraordinary council meeting held in Tunis last January. The visit aims at informing Saudi Arabia with developments inside occupied Arab war.

Zalzala pointed out that the Arab League Council would discuss during its coming meeting a number of Arab issues topped by latest escalation of the Iraq-Iran war.

The Arab League team due in New York for talks

UNITED NATIONS, March 26, (Kuna): A high-level Arab delegation is expected to arrive here tomorrow to begin a round of talks with UN and American officials in search for a global solution to the Middle East conflict.

Led by Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi, the group includes Saudi Arabian Minister of State in the Foreign Affairs Ministry Ibrahim Massoud and possibly high Syrian and Algerian officials.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation will be represented in the New York talks by PLO permanent observer Zehdi Terzi.

The talks will get under way Monday in New York with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with the main focus being the proposed international conference on the Middle East.

The UN chief executive will use the meeting to gather additional input for his report on the situation in the Middle East to be issued later this month.

Talks are set with US Secretary of State George Shultz

Media coverage hailed

LONDON, March 26, (Kuna): Chairman of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (Fana) Bargees Hmoud Al Bargees today hailed the European media coverage of the 15-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the Iraqi war.

Commenting on the outcome of the meeting of the joint executive committee of Arab and European news agencies held recently in Vienna, Bargees also praised Euro-Arab cooperation in the exchange of information.

In addition to Bargees, the meeting was attended by Fana's secretary-general, Farid Ayyar and a number of directors of East and West European news agencies.

Upon conclusion of the meeting, it was decided that the fifth general conference of Arab and European news agencies will be held in Tunis next Nov 8, to resume a constructive dialogue between the two sides.

The first such conference was held in Tunis in November of 1976, while the last was convened between the two sides in Prague in November 1984.

Fana sources said that cooperation between Arab and European news agencies has made great strides particularly in the field of exchanging news.

Inspection tour

MINISTER of Defence, Sheikh Nawaaf Al Ahmed yesterday paid an inspection visit to the Armoured 35th Brigade accompanied by top defence officials.

Sheikh Nawaaf listened to a brief report on the brigade's assignments in peace and war times and later inspected units of the brigade including the training department and computer room.

The minister urged the officers and troops to keep vigil and become the protective shield of the state.

Hussein meets Ibrahim Al Bahi

THE adviser at the Amiri Diwan Abdul Aziz Hussein yesterday received Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iraq Ibrahim Al Bahi and discussed the two countries' relations.

Al Bahi has earlier been the country's ambassador to Amman.

Hussein also received secretary-general of the Arab Association for Advancement of Childhood and former Minister of Education Hassan Al Ibrahim.

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● The director of Hawalli Governorate security, Colonel Abdul Aziz Al Shamian, presents a military service medal, awarded by HH the Amir, to an officer. The Amir awarded medals to 18 officers and 25 security men. The ceremony was attended by the assistant security director, Colonel Hassan Jaesem.

Barges in talks with Soviet media officials

Novosti chief reiterates support for Palestinians

MOSCOW, March 26, (Kuna):

A ranking Soviet media official today affirmed his country's pro-Palestinian stance and its refusal to establish relations with Israel if the Jewish state goes on with its aggressive policies against Arab countries.

The remarks were made by head of Novosti news agency Valerio Valin upon the conclusion of a visit here by a delegation of the Kuwait News Agency (Kuna), during which Kuna's representatives asked their Novosti and Tass colleagues for broader coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war.

Hamoud Saeed Al Adwani, an employee at the Communications Ministry stressed that the price rises affected all kinds of building materials including aluminium which has doubled from KD1,000 to KD2,000. However, he pointed out that the price of locally produced cement had remained stable as had the fees of a supervising engineer which have remained at around KD 5 or 600.

Supporting Ahmad's opinion, Abdulla Al Naser added that the price of steel used to be KD76 per ton just five months ago, but has now soared to KD 170 per ton. He said that surveyors used to charge half a dinar per square metre, but now most of them would not settle for less than 800 fils, and that tile-layers had increased their charges from 600

ough Kuwait is small in size, it

plays a big and effective role in boosting world peace through a neutral and balanced policy in dealing with the superpowers."

He stressed that the Gulf war

threatens international peace

and paves the way for others to

intervene in the region's affairs

directly or indirectly.

Bargees elaborated on Soviet media coverage of the Gulf war

and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, an issue he discussed with Tass officials, calling for an appropriate coverage of these events.

Unwell

Bargees said that the Soviet Union has huge amounts of information that can unveil the false democracy in the Zionist entity, which pursues a Nazi ideology aimed at liquidating the Palestinian people.

For his part, Novosti's chief executive hailed the "special and prominent" role Kuwait plays in circulating true and accurate information about developments in the area, wishing Kuwait more progress and hoping that peace can be restored to

the Gulf region.

On the Mideast conflict, Valin said that a solution to the problem was remote if a settlement to the Palestinian cause was not reached, stressing, "there will be some kind of treason to our principles, if we abandon the Palestinian problem."

Opposes

He noted that his country opposes the Gulf war, which causes destruction and loss of life on a daily basis and pointed out Soviet-Kuwaiti meetings in this regard, expressing belief that peace would be near if such cooperation was established among more countries.

Valin reiterated Moscow's call to transform the Arabian Gulf into a demilitarized zone.

The talks were attended by top Novosti officials while Kuna's delegation included board member and assistant undersecretary at the Communications Ministry Faisal Al Majed, chief reporter Hassan Al Sayegh and Kuna's Moscow Bureau chief Khaled Al Tarrah.

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III-mannered crowd ruin jazz concert

By Keith Wells

ALTHOUGH well over a thousand people showed up at the free concert given by the Kevin Eubanks Trio on Tuesday last week it quickly became obvious that less than ten percent of them actually wanted to hear the music. The rest just wanted to meet their friends, have a good gossip, show off their best clothes, pose about and generally ruin the whole evening, for anyone who actually wanted to listen to the band.

For a start the concert was forty minutes late in starting because less than a third of the audience had the courtesy to show up on time. The others drifted in as and when they felt like it, drifted about throughout the show and drifted out again when they were bored. The band made the mistake of starting 'softly', hoping, no doubt to build up tension and focus interest as they go into

their stride. No such luck. Some in the audience just kept on chattering, greeting friends, changing seats and generally acting like free-spirited three-year-olds. Every time the group tried to play soft, meditative jazz, they were simply drowned out by the manic chatter of the largely teenage audience.

Fluid

When Kevin Eubanks and his sidemen, Eugene Jackson on drums and Rael Wesley on bass, did manage to get going they played some wonderfully fluid and exciting music. A piece called 'Unfilled Shapes' showed how brilliantly they could play, the flickering, nervous intensity of the drums urged on by the pattering, skittering rhythms of the electric bass and over the top the soaring, dazzling eloquence of Kevin Eubanks' guitar. For a moment the sheer speed and brilliance of their playing managed to fuse the crowd and all its distractions into a single

organism and wild applause greeted every solo.

But then the Trio tried to play something more complicated and subtle and the crowd degenerated into an unruly, heedless mob of philistines. It was terribly frustrating for the tiny minority who actually wanted to listen to the music. Merefully, the musicians treated it all as a big joke and were large hearted enough not to be offended by the boorishness of the audience. A drum solo was greeted with howls of approval and the mob started clapping along, thus absolutely preventing any rhythmic improvisation or change of direction. Clapping along to jazz of this sophistication is about as crass as clapping along to Mozart and just as destructive. Then the bass player took over, with a wry smile, and played some simple funky-doo dubble gum disco rhythms, which was just about the level the crowd could

cope with. Even then, when he tried to break out of the strait jacket of clapping they would have none of it and lapsed back into disorder. After that it was a lost cause. The Trio bravely played another number but the uproar was never-ending, scores of people just drifted away. Had he walked off and left on a record of Michael Jackson at full volume they would probably have been happier.

Noisy

At one point I asked some girl to sit down and be quiet since she had arrived over an hour late and hadn't stopped talking for a second since she arrived. All I got was a load of abuse for my trouble. The tragic thing is that the huge turnout showed that the youngsters in Kuwait are absolutely starved for somewhere to go, something to do together. However, having said that, their behaviour was unforgivable.

Tea-party for volunteers

THE Committee of the Handicapped Society held a tea-party at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel last week to express their thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers and supporters of the society.

The head of the committee, Mrs Modi Sultan, welcoming the volunteers thanked them on behalf of the committee and said she hoped that other ladies would be encouraged to come forward and offer their services.

Mrs Ferial Ghantous of the society said that although most volunteers worked directly with handicapped children, others contributed in different ways. Some had helped to establish the medical records and others contributed financially towards the expenses of running the society.

The tea-party was the first one to be held but in future the society, Ferial said, would be able to have such meetings every month to exchange ideas and help improve the work of the society. More than 50 ladies attended the party.

ble. Kevin Eubanks is a world class musician who travelled thousands of miles to give a free concert and these ill-mannered people didn't even have the courtesy to shut up and listen to him for more than a few minutes. Had he walked off and left on a record of Michael Jackson at full volume they would probably have been happier.

For the minority who actually wanted to hear some music the evening was a tragedy of wasted opportunity. There were flickers of brilliance, shards of melody and pulsing urban rhythms that promised a great show, but it was impossible to concentrate, the unruly were too numerous, too egocentric and too noisy. Worst of all, although their behaviour was an absolute shame and disgrace they were not even aware of it. After just over an hour, the musicians called it quits and the whole sorry spectacle came to an unlamented end.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News via Satellite
3.30 Ibtal Al Ma'laeb: cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.05 Magazine D'Actualite

4.25 Li'uyoun Hadran: Arabic serial; starring Adel Afana, Abeer Essa

5.30 Al Manahal: children's serial, featuring Amal Dahhas, Tayseer Attiya, Rabe'a Shihab.

6.00 Songs and Music
7.00 News Summary
7.05 Cultural Programme
7.30 Diwaniyat Shuara Al Nah: poetry session

8.15 Good Evening and Local News

9.00 News in Arabic

9.50 Layali Hilmiya: ep. 4, Arabic serial, featuring Hassan Yusuf, Firdous Abdul Hamid, Huda Sultan.

10.50 Variety Show: featuring Arab composer Ahmad Sudji. Hosted by Najwa Azzam.
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News via Satellite
12.40 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

4.15 Holy Quran
4.35 Football: Al Kazema vs Al Rifa'a, Bahrain

6.10 The Lone Ranger: "Walk A Tight Wire". Cartoon serial.

6.30 Butterfly Island: the islanders overcome yet another challenge and assist in arresting vandals.

7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly programme on Islamic thought and philosophy.

7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a half-hour lighter look at sport-

ing events.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Adderly: "Class of '87". Adderly joins a training course on spying. And he suspects one of the trainees is a spy.

9.30 He's the Mayor: "And That's the Way it Was". Comedy.

10.00 O.E.D.: "Your Child's Diet on Trial". A field survey on the effects of diet on children's behaviour.

10.30 Best-Seller: "Space". The mini-series, based on James Michener's novel, continues tonight with the historic landing of man on the moon.

12.00 News in Brief/ Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News About Britain

15 Radio Newsreel

30 Musical Masters of the Week: "Baroque" (ex 13th Play of the Week)

0100 News Summary (ex 13th) followed by Play of the Week: 6th The Browning Version; 13th Remembrance contd.; 20th From the Lion Rock; 27th Happy Families

0200 World News

09 The Sunday Papers

15 From Our Own Correspondent

30 Yes Minister

0400 Newsdesk

30 Capriccio (ex 27th The Seven Ages of Man)

45 Selections

50 Friday Review

0300 World News

09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary

30 Chain Reaction (ex 27th The Wondrous Cross)

45 Letter from America

0600 Newsdesk

30 Jazz for the Asking

0700 World News

09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary

30 From Our Own Correspondent

45 Book Choice

50 Waveguide
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 The Pleasure's Yours

09 World News

09 Sunday Papers

15 Science in Action

45 Education Today (ex 6th A Hobb or a Way of Life)

0000 News Summary followed by Short Story

15 Classical Record Review

1100 Religious Service

09 World News

09 From Our Own Correspondent (ex 27th The Wondrous Cross)

30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 13th Play of the Week: Remembrance)

1200 News Summary (ex 13th) followed by Play of the Week: 6th The Browning Version; 13th Remembrance contd.; 20th From the Lion Rock; 27th Happy Families

1300 World News

09 The Sunday Papers

15 From Our Own Correspondent

30 Yes Minister

0400 Newsdesk

30 Capriccio (ex 27th The Seven Ages of Man)

45 Selections

50 Friday Review

0300 World News

09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary

30 Chain Reaction (ex 27th The Wondrous Cross)

45 Letter from America

0600 Newsdesk

30 Jazz for the Asking

0700 World News

09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary

30 From Our Own Correspondent

45 Book Choice

1430 Yes Minister
1500 Radio Newsread
15 6th and 13th International Recital; 20th and 27th Concert Hall

1600 World News

09 Correspondency

15 Why Should This Happen to Me? (ex 6th The Desert Diary)

45 Letter from America

0800 Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music
1100 Country 'n' Western
1200 Songs and Music
1300 Easy Listening
1330 News
1400 Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 French Hour
1800 Pop
2130 News
2145 Pop
2200 Arabic Songs and Music
2300 Easy Listening
2400 Instrumental Music
0230 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

Salimya and Ramzithiya
Al Mada'in Pharmacy
Baqdad St.
Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Bastooi Pharmacy
Qais Al Ghaneim Bldg., Dabbous St.
Al Gbawza Pharmacy
Kazemi Bldg., Khalid Bin Al Walid St.

Hawalli and Nigra
Al Kamal Pharmacy
Tunis St.

Jahra

Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Cooperative Society

Al Andalus
Carry on England
Starring: Kenneth Connors, Judy Geeson
Al Salimya
Hot Shots
Starring: Jim Younger
Al Hamra
Shabab Fi Al Jaheem (Arabic)
Starring: Mamdouh Abdul Aleem, Mirval Ameen
Drive-in
Zaman Habem Zahran (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shariff, Bosi, Salah Al Saadani
Al Firdous
Samraat (Hindi)
Starring: Dharmendra, Hema Malini
Fahsheel Open-Air
Armaan (Hindi)
Al Fahsheel
Oridathu (Malayalam)

Grand Finale takes place on Wednesday, April 13. The event features student and teacher teams from Kuwait's schools in a series of exciting games. Barbecue dinner and beverages will be served by the poolside. Valuable prizes. For details contact the hotel.

E.M.A.C. Tournament

A tennis tournament for under-16s will be held from April 13 to 16 at the SAS Hotel. Participating teams are from Abu Dhabi, Oman, Damascus, American School of Kuwait, Universal American School, Kuwait English School and New English School. The tournament has been organised by E.M.A.C. (Eastern Mediterranean Activities Conference).

Bowling Tournament

The Philipine Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBAK) will hold their handicap bowling tournament from 9 am on April 8 at Club 300. The tournament is open to all men and women. Deadline for submitting entries is April 6. Fee: KD. 4.500.

HOTELS

At the Sheraton
Turkish designer Madame Z will show her latest collection at

a fashion show at the hotel's Grand Ballroom, nightly, 8.30 pm, until March 29.

At the Hilton

The all-day dining restaurant, La Palma, offers Oriental, Continental and international cuisine, as well as a large array of sweets and desserts. Open for lunch and dinner. A full American buffet breakfast is available from 6.30 am to 11 am. Open daily from 6.30 am to midnight.

At the Meridien

Kiwi Festival features the fruit in cocktails, salads, main courses and pastries. The promotion is being held in La Brasserie, Al Waha and Al Firdous. The festival ends on April 3.

Dine in the Versailles Restaurant and enjoy jazz music and ballads presented by Tony and Jenny's band. The band plays in the restaurant on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

At the SAS

The Peacock Room offers Chinese dining from Peking to Szechuan daily for lunch and dinner, except Saturday. Al Boom is one of the exciting eating places in town. The restaurant on the traditional dhow offers Oriental and Western cuisine for dinner, nightly.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Free Atelier
An exhibition of paintings by Samiyya Ahmad Sayyed Omar will be open from March 28 at the Free Atelier Gallery, Arabian Gulf St., near Amiri Hospital. It will be open from 8.30 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm.

Ghadir Gallery
Egyptian artist Magdi Kenawy is showing his latest collection of lithographs and prints at the gallery in Salihiya Complex. The exhibition is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8 pm, until March 31.

Sultan Gallery
An exhibition of oil paintings by Pakistani artist Yasmeen Bhaiyya will be held at the gallery, Al Soor St., from March 28. It will be open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm.

Stepping Out
Kuwait Players presents the comedy "Stepping Out", directed by Ken Winston with choreography by Donna Smith, at 8 pm nightly, from April 10 to 14 at the Crystal Ballroom, Regency Palace Hotel. First night is gala night — dress black tie or lounge suit.

SOCIAL

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LOOK back and smile at perils past — Sir Walter Scott, Scottish writer (1771-1832).

West German politics

Social Democrats mount a challenge

By Anthony Williams

BONN, (Reuter): Social Democrat Oskar Lafontaine, once a firebrand of the left, has mounted a controversial challenge to trade unions in a bid for the centre ground of West German politics.

Aiming to steer his party back to power in the 1990s, the deputy leader of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) risked a breach with its traditional trade union allies, urging workers to forego pay rises in their fight for shorter hours last month.

Lafontaine, 44-year-old state premier of the industrially depressed Saarland, outraged labour leaders and unions branded him a traitor.

But employers and conservative politicians quickly embraced his proposal, which he sees as a viable way to cut rising unemployment.

Image

Lafontaine is trying to rid the SPD of its old-fashioned image of a party linked just to the working-class left.

"As a party of the people, the SPD cannot orientate itself only to the demands of the unions," he said recently.

Commentators say he is also flirting with the small, but pivotal, Liberal Free Democrat Party (FDP), with whom the SPD ruled in a coalition from 1969 to 1982.

The FDP switched allegiances during an economic downturn, propelling conservative Helmut Kohl into the Bonn chancellery. But the new alliance is an uneasy marriage, often strained by conflicts on disarmament and domestic security issues.

West Germans traditionally trust conservatives to come up with sensible policies to deal with unemployment. However, one-tenth of the working population is now out of a job and even the government concedes the rising trend is a problem.

Last month, there were some 2.5 million unemployed in West Germany — 29,000 more than in February 1987. A Hamburg-based research institute, HWWA, predicts another 80,000 jobs will be lost this year.

PLO's UN mission

Closing may set precedent

By Peter James Spielmann

UNITED NATIONS, (AP): An attorney for US groups and individuals who want to hear the PLO's views said Thursday that a law to close the PLO's UN mission could set an unconstitutional precedent of suppressing political speech.

The 1987 US anti-terrorist law, if upheld by the courts, would force the Palestine Liberation Organisation to close the Manhattan Townhouse that serves as its UN mission and bar it from spending funds in the United States.

Michael Krinsky, a lawyer for 65 individuals and groups filing the lawsuit, told a news conference that his New York law firm sued the US government, challenging the constitutionality of the law.

The lawsuit was filed Wednesday, just an hour after the UN General Assembly voted 148-2 to condemn the United States for trying to oust the PLO. Only Israel joined the United States in voting against the resolution, which has no binding effect.

Debate

"Political debate in this country would be impoverished dramatically were we not able to hear the voices of the people who want to speak for the Palestinian people, or for the anti-apartheid forces in South Africa, or who want to further the interest of (Nicaragua's) Sandinista government, or the Contras, or of Israel," Krinsky said.

"If this law is sustained, then it will be possible at other times, and in different political climates, for Congress to silence all those other voices," he said.

Krinsky's lawsuit is separate from the legal action pitting the United States against the PLO mission and the United Nations.

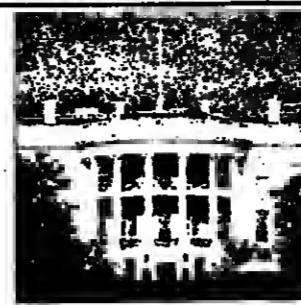
On Tuesday, the Justice Department filed suit in a New York court to enforce the law.

Reagan administration's involvement is due to developments beyond its control

Foreign affairs dominating political scene

Inside Washington

By Henry Brandon



ment of Angola, to mention only a few that irritate the Reagan administration most.

There have been public demonstrations in Washington, Chicago and San Francisco against the sending of American paratroopers to Honduras, but they have petered out.

The relatively mild and confused reaction in Congress, too, is an indication that there is enough evidence that the attempted incursion into Honduras by the Sandinistas was not a sort of trumped up charge to give the United States an excuse to send troops into Honduras, but that this incursion did indeed happen.

Furthermore, it disturbed members of Congress that the Sandinistas major and well prepared offensive against the Contras happened on the eve of.

an agreed date for a resumption of the peace negotiations. It was Shultz, not the Pentagon, who proposed sending those 3,000 American paratroopers into Honduras.

Prominent

Reagan relies almost totally on Shultz's recommendations. He has become the most prominent and influential personality in the Reagan administration and gives every impression of enjoying his new-found command position. It is unusual for an outgoing administration to be so active in foreign affairs, but Shultz is anxious to conclude his service with a record of achievements. He is therefore, pushing hard for progress in arms control negotiations and in advancing the cause of his Middle East peace plan. He is han-

dling himself with a self-assurance, authority and a sense of being in command he has not displayed before.

He is well aware that his Middle East initiative has only a faint chance of succeeding and his failure to persuade Shamir to be more forthcoming has not upset or discouraged him. He feels that the US had to give a lead, because there is no other government that has the authority to do so and, furthermore, that it is important to keep his proposals before the Israeli public.

The prospect that the next national elections in Israel, possibly in June, will change the political balance between the Likud and Labour parties is remote, but these elections make it even more important for a peace plan to exist, especially a plan which has the support of much of the American Jewish community.

Divided

Two weeks ago Dr Ehud Sprinzak a senior lecturer in political science at Hebrew University visited Washington. He is a highly respected expert in his field of political science and he spoke to a number of leading Middle-Eastern experts here, including State Department officials.

He believes that while Israel remains evenly divided on the peace issue and the events in the West Bank and Gaza have failed to cause any traumatic changes in the Israeli psyche, a major qualitative change in the thinking of the Arab and Israeli elites (that is politicians and intellectuals who influence public opinion) is in train. And it is public opinion not the politicians who will decide the future state of Israel.

He is also convinced that the riots in the West Bank and Israel's reaction to them has profoundly affected the soul of Israel" and that a compromise agreement "peace for territory" is only a matter of time and a matter of price, which, he says, Israelis may come to realise is going up every day.

In contrast to many American experts in this field, he is convinced that the ultimate solution will not be brought about by the left, the Labour Party but by the right because Israel is "immensely conservative", as he puts it. And if there is a leader who could be a leader who could resolve this growing internal

crisis it is the current Minister of Commerce and Industries, Sharon, whose radicalism appears to be mellowing. He calls him a dangerous person but the only leading politician who has the shrewdness and the ambition to lead, and who is likely to have the guts to tell the Israelis that the present policy of stubborn refusal to compromise will at some point become too costly for Israel.

He does not exclude the possibility that a civil war will break out (as happened in Algeria in 1959) between the hard-core right-wingers led by the Rev Kahane who believes that giving back the West Bank would be a crime against God and those who have come to favour the territorial compromise.

For the time being at least the hard-right is pleased with the "revolution of the stones" because it has swelled its ranks, seriously hurt the pride of the Israeli Army, stiffened its determination to put down the rioters and shown that American Jewish is not a reliable supporter of Israel — that it must therefore be able to rely on itself.

Kahane, Dr Sprinzak sees as a fanatic, Sharon as a man who has the flexibility and the courage to lead Israel out of its worst crisis.

It is this sense of crucial changes in the air that keeps Shultz pushing his peace plan, even if both Arabs and Jews stay away from it. It certainly is not dead, the proposal for an international conference, which is part of the plan, will come up in this week's discussions between Shultz and Shevardnadze. Shultz wants the conference as a vehicle to get the negotiations started, but not to impose or veto any solutions, the Russians want to use it to exert leverage on the whole situation. They want to be an active participant in the negotiations. It is this Soviet attitude which scares Shamir.

An interesting by-product of Shultz's activities is their likely impact on the American presidential elections. They will make it difficult for whoever will be the Democratic candidate to criticise the Reagan administration for inaction in foreign affairs. Unless any of Shultz's initiatives goes seriously wrong, they are bound to help George Bush in his quest for the presidency.

ness management, and other domestic actions.

Swing Democrats (those who voted for Ronald Reagan) generally agree with Republicans on this issue. They say America's trade problems, for example, are primarily the US's own fault.

Restrict

Regular Democrats, however, want quick, tough action aimed at US trading partners. They support legislation that would restrict imports and impose "fairness" on the trading system. They favour better education, but worry that even if America were operating at peak efficiency, unfair trade practices by other nations could depress American wages, the Roosevelt study found.

Political policians, such as Richard Wirthlin, who works for Robert Dole's campaign, find these issues escalating among GOP voters.

The budget deficit was considered a serious problem by only 2 or 3 per cent of Republican voters two years ago. Now it is up to 11 to 14 per cent in Dr Wirthlin's polls as voters begin to tie the deficit together with other economic concerns.

Hansen of the Roosevelt Centre says that in 1984, when Walter Mondale tried to make the deficit an issue, he failed because voters couldn't see the connection between deficits and their economic futures.

That has changed. Today many voters see everything linked: budget and trade deficits, declining test scores, poor management, bloated government, defence waste, and corporate greed. Together, they threaten America's future.

This new inward focus by voters coincides with a feeling that it is time to pull back overseas. As one Republican, identified only as "Bob," told a Roosevelt focus group in Illinois: "The country has to think of itself first ... More attention should be given (to) solving American problems rather than trying to solve somebody else's problems when we have no control over them or any vested interest in them."

He concluded: "We don't need all 400,000 troops over in Europe ... When people in Europe don't think enough to invest in their own protection and count on us for their protection, it's just a waste of effort."

The Christian Science Monitor News Service

Islamic militants against settlement with Israel

By Nicolas B. Tatro

BEIT AL MAA Occupied West Bank, (AP): Islamic militants who reject any negotiated settlement with Israel have played a key role in the rebellion against military rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mosques have often become fortresses used to fight Israeli soldiers, and Muslim preachers use prayer services on Fridays to rally support for continuing the "intifada," Arabic for uprising.

Underground leaflets and graffiti on the walls are signed by the Islamic Jihad, or Holy War, by the Islamic resistance and by Hamas, "Arabic for "zeal" and the name used by the Muslim Brotherhood. "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) has become a common battle cry.

The uncompromising rhetoric of such groups is cited by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as evidence that the unrest is not a political protest, but a war aimed at the destruction of Israel.

"We demand that the Jews be put under our rule," said Sheikh Jamil Salim, a 29-year-old imam, or Muslim prayer leader, in this hillside refugee camp near the West Bank town of Nablus.

Intentions

"We are taught by the Holy Quran that Jews have no good intentions to establish peace. They are breakers of agreements and covenants," he said.

The relative strengths of fundamentalist Islamic groups, as opposed to non-fundamentalists who identify with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, is difficult to assess.

Clinton Bailey, an Islamic expert at Tel Aviv University who is carrying out a study, said fundamentalists claimed the allegiance of at least 30 percent of the 850,000 residents of the West Bank, while in Gaza it was nearly 80 per cent of 650,000.

"There is a certain gray area because not all people are one or the other. Many who identify with the PLO also became religious," said Bailey.

His distrust of the Israelis is reflected to a greater or lesser degree by other hardline prayer leaders in Friday sermons.

Salim, who offers a reporter a meat-and-milk dish called shush barak, lives with 18 members of his extended family in a four-room stone house on a street so narrow a donkey cart cannot pass.

student in Cairo in the 1950s and later was jailed in Israel for PLO activism, spoke with pride about the group.

Sitting cross-legged on floor cushions in his diwan, or meeting room, Salim said one reason for the growth of Islam has been the failure of other ideologies. "Socialism, nationalism and materialism, all the —isms, failed," he said.

Salim makes it clear he identifies with the Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Egypt by school teacher Hassan Al Banna in 1929. He does not oppose the diplomatic efforts of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat but stresses a West Bank state will not be enough.

Poverty

"We are not against getting part of our rights. But we will seek all of our rights. We refuse negotiations and reject an international conference," he said.

Outside his home, the walls bear dozens of slogans. One signed by the Islamic Resistance, such as traditional long dresses and veils for women, are more prevalent than in the relatively prosperous West Bank.

The uprising began Dec 9, in the Jelahiya refugee camp near Gaza City.

Ahmed Hashem Ali Saftawi, 53, who owns a pharmacy in Jelahiya, said the stage for rebellion was set by a group founded in 1986 by his 34-year-old son Imad and a dozen fellow students at the Islamic University in Gaza City.

Killed

The group took the name of Islamic Holy War after the shadowy pro-Iranian faction in Lebanon that carried out devastating car-bomb attacks on US Marines and Israeli soldiers. Saftawi said.

Growing to more than 50 active members, the group in Gaza drew inspiration from preachers, but Saftawi insisted there was no outside direction or funding.

Saftawi, who joined the Muslim Brotherhood as a

Time for US to look after its own interests

By John Dilllin

WASHINGTON — "Put America first."

Across the United States, from the textile mills of South Carolina to the auto plants in Illinois, there's a pervasive sentiment that it is time for America to look after its own. It could become a major element of the emerging political debate in the 1988 election.

Political experts say there is growing anxiety at the grass roots about America's economic future, despite low inflation, low unemployment, and steady growth over the past five years.

They say previous concerns about America's military strength have been replaced by new worries about the nation's economic vulnerability. This concern is reaching into middle-class families who once felt secure.

"We were deceived into believing help would come from outside, and waited for the Arabs or Islamic states or the United Nations to do something," said Saftawi.

Two days after the interview in his home in Gaza City, Saftawi was placed under administrative detention by Israeli military authorities, who can keep him for six months without trial.

In the Gaza Strip, where poverty is pervasive and a majority of the 650,000 residents are refugees, outward signs of Islamic influence, such as traditional long dresses and veils for women, are more prevalent than in the relatively prosperous West Bank.

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Saftawi, who joined the Muslim Brotherhood as a

TODAY IN HISTORY

1703 — Russian Czar Peter the Great founds city of St Petersburg.

1713 — Spain agrees at Utrecht to cede Gibraltar and Minorca to Britain.

1802 — Peace of Amiens between Britain and France, which achieves complete pacification of Europe.

1834 — France declares war on Russia.

1865 — Independent British colony of Kaffraria is incorporated with Cape Colony in South Africa.

1878 — Britain, fearing further Russian aggression, calls out reserve and sends Indian troops to Malaya.

1933 — Japan announces it will leave League of Nations.

1941 — Yugoslavia's Prince Paul is deposed in coup following pact with Germany's Adolf Hitler.

1955 — State of emergency is declared in Pakistan.



LABOUR unionists with umbrellas rally for the spring labour offensive, demanding their wage hike, at a rainy park in Tokyo. Over 10,000 workers participated in the rally. (Reuter wirephoto)



US Navy engineman Robert Bunn of Augusta, Georgia, whistles to a wild green parrot trying to make friends after he captured it on the frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts' flight deck while in port. (Reuter wirephoto)



A SANDINISTA Army doctor checks the pulse of a wounded soldier during the evacuation by helicopter. The two soldiers stepped on a landmine near Amaka, 270 km north of Managua along the border with Honduras, only a few hours after the Nicaraguan government and the UN-backed Contras signed a cease-fire agreement. (Reuter wirephoto)



A TIBETAN monk on the 10th day of a 'fast until death' having his blood pressure checked yesterday in New Delhi. Thirteen Tibetans are on a hunger strike against the Chinese occupation of Tibet. (Reuter wirephoto)



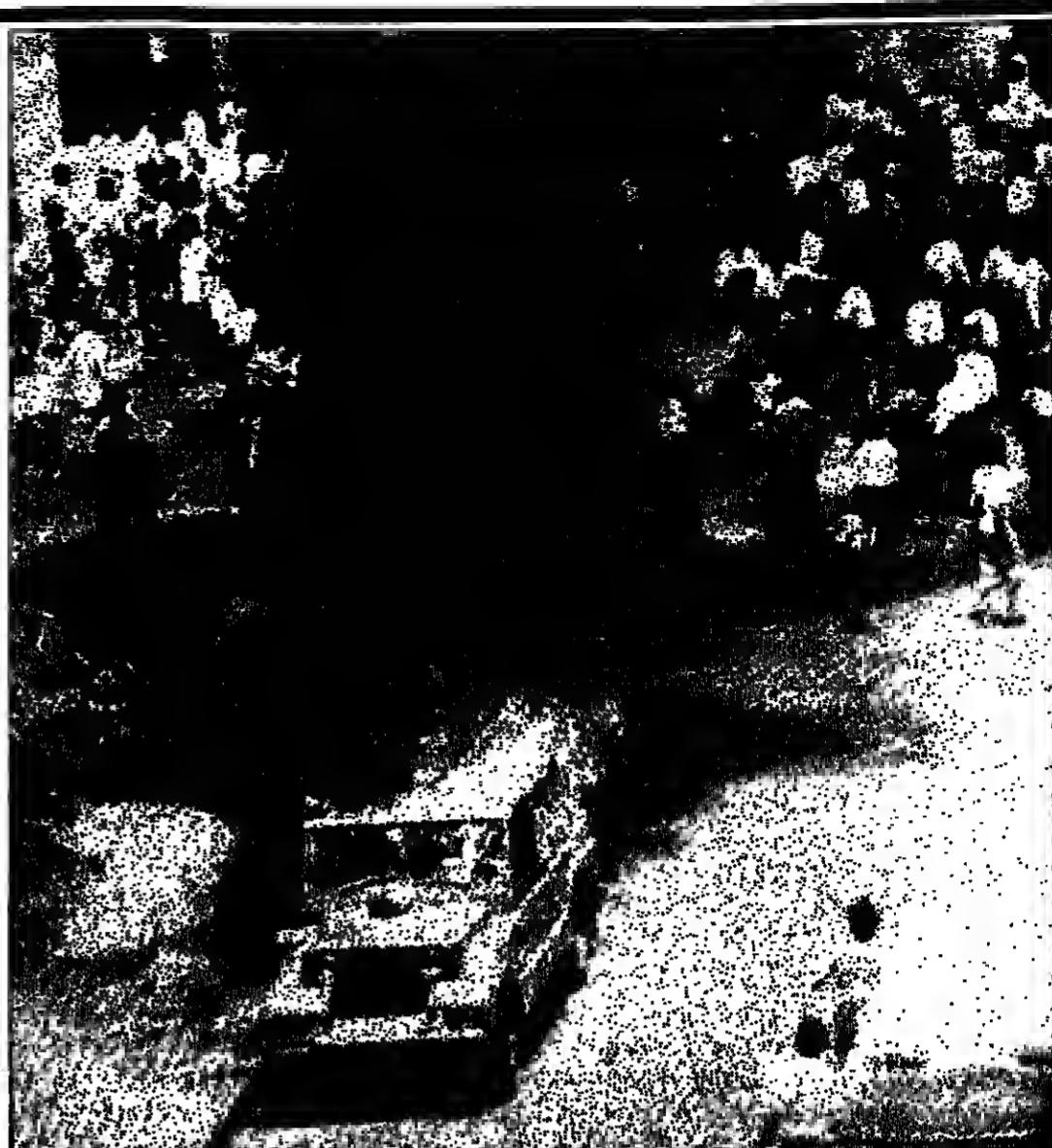
JULIA BLACK, an animal keeper at Howlett's Zoo in Canterbury, England, hugs Matibi, a one-and-a-half-year-old gorilla, the 35th in the zoo's present population. Doctors had thought that Matibi was dead after she was delivered when her mother failed to recognise her. Black, who has to sleep with the gorilla and feed her every two hours, wears a false hairy chest for her charge to clutch. (Reuter wirephoto)



INTENDED runners in next Thursday's Royal Artillery Cup take a training run under the barrels of mobile artillery guns on Salisbury Plain. (Reuter wirephoto)



ANTI-NORIEGA protesters wave white handkerchiefs — a symbol of opposition to the military rule of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega — during a rally in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Panama, where a mass was held. (Reuter wirephoto)



A GOVERNMENT jeep burns in a central Rangoon street during recent student riots. Diplomats said more than two dozen people were killed and 2,000 arrested in several days of rioting. (Reuter wirephoto)



TOP Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping returns applause of other delegates at the opening session of China's parliament, the National People's Congress. (Reuter wirephoto)



DEBI THOMAS of USA in action during the ladies short programme of the 1988 World Figure Skating Championships in Budapest on Friday. Thomas took the second place before the long programme yesterday (picture below). Canada's Brian Orser (picture top) jumps high while competing in the men's long programme at the championships. Orser was placed second, behind the USA's Brian Boitano. (Reuter wirephoto)



MEMBERS of the US 7th Infantry Division, practice assault tactics in southern Honduras, where they have been training in 100 degrees F temperatures since their arrival from California on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)



Bridging East and West

Pakistan's other Zia

International bridge player Zia Mahmud believes there's a magic in bridge which unites people and befriends them, casting aside differences of colour, religion and race. To prove that point, he won the famous Reisinger Cup in America with a multi-racial team.

By Muneeza Shamsie

HE PLAYS for Pakistan and bridge journalists have nominated him the best bridge player in the world today.

He has been asked by the Australian government to play exhibition matches for their bicentennial celebrations.

He has also made several series for television and was among the handful of players invited for a cruise on board 'The Canberra' to play a television tournament.

He performed the rare feat of winning it two years running and it was recently shown on the BBC.

Bridge commentators find it difficult to pre-empt his thought processes as he has a reputation for being imaginative, innovative and unpredictable.

He is based in London, has an apartment in New York and invited to every country conceivable. His itinerary this year includes The Hague, London, Iceland, Tunisia, Paris, Morocco, Luxembourg, New York, Muscat.

Image

"The world of bridge," Zia Mahmud says, "is a cocoon, with its own language, its own heroes. But it is much more international than cricket—which is limited to a few countries—and I want to give it greater public vision by promoting friendship and peace programmes."

Flamboyant, quick witted and charming, he is planning a tournament in Reykjavik at the house where Gorbachev and Reagan had their summit. He hopes to arrange for a Russian family and an American family, to spend a few days living with each other and getting to know each other, through bridge. He then wants to repeat this in other parts of the world and to make up teams consist-

ing of people of different races.

"There is a magic in bridge," he says, "which unites people and befriends them. It casts aside differences of colour, religion and race."

To prove the point, he won the famous Reisinger Cup in America with a team consisting of an Indian Hindu, a white American Jew and a Black Christian. He became the subject of much publicity when an interviewer asked him, 'Is bridge like mathematics?' Zia promptly made a challenge on television that if any computer—the ultimate in calculation—could beat him, he would pay up a million pounds. No one to date has taken up his offer.

"I wanted people to know," he said, "how important human qualities are in bridge."

"For me," he added, "bridge is about that one beautiful moment in a hundred hands where I can find a play, a bid, an imaginative defence that has not been thought of before."

Personal relationships are obviously important to him. His conversation is filled with lively anecdotes of the many people he met through bridge, whether it's the blind player he played with in Calcutta, or the richest and most powerful men in the world.

"In five minutes of bridge," he says, "I can tell more about people than after weeks of living with them. You find people who appear strong, but are bullies or cowards when they play bridge; conversely you find people with kindness and empathy and generosity and it flows all over the place."

The younger son of Mir Maqbool Mahmud and Dr Shakuntala Haroon, Zia Mahmud describes himself as both fatalistic and "totally lacking adiastical" except when it comes to bridge; and with no great likes or dislikes either, except at the bridge table. "There my emotions go berserk," he said.

"hut I don't show them of course."

"Were cards a part of your childhood?" I ask him.

"No they were not."

He grew up in England, was educated at Rugby, became a qualified chartered accountant, and returned to Pakistan at the age of 21.

He more or less 'fell into bridge.' The story goes that he was interested in a lady he could only meet at the bridge table; he ended up by forgetting her and becoming obsessed by bridge.

Passionate

"I have been passionate about very few things," he said. "When I got involved in bridge for the first time, it was a raging fever, it was all consuming. It is the only thing where I can still occupy my mind and not feel time passing. And it gives me moments of such beauty that it's terrific."

He took every opportunity to improve his game, but in Pakistan the competition was limited and the bridge techniques were those handed down over decades. He moved to London and played in bridge clubs from morning till night.

His family were not exactly enthralled. "Why do you play bridge?" people said. "Why not tiddly winks?" Others urged him to do something more useful. "But like everything else in life," he commented, "when you bring home great success then suddenly it becomes a different ball game. Heaven forbid that you should fail."

Bridge, he added, "is a profession only because it takes up all my time. But I don't think it would be fair to say it's my principal source of livelihood, because I have alternative sources."

Roshan Bokhari, who plays with the Pakistan women's team, tells me that few people in Pakistan quite realise exactly what a high standing and per-

sonal reputation Zia has in the bridge world. Bridge fans virtually vie to catch a glimpse of him. "Pakistan?" They say with wonder. "You're from Zia Mahmud's country?"

He holds regular training sessions in Karachi before a tournament and is never too busy to help out or give advice. Consequently, he has introduced modern bridge techniques to Pakistan and radically changed methods of bidding and playing.

Bridge is not a game of luck or chance," he said. "It is a game of skill; it's very scientific and well thought out. But you have to keep up with modern changes, as in any other game, you have to be exposed to tough international competition, to new ideas, new literature."

Tall and casual, he was staying at his family house, guarded by a pair of Alsatians when I went to see him.

"In the West," he said, "the national image of Pakistan has been one of a people who are good at physical sports. But to excel in a sport which requires mental proficiency and to beat the world at that, wins the country much higher prestige than you can possibly imagine."

where the national team practices is a locker room, in the national stadium."

Furthermore, every member

of the bridge team, except Zia,

has a regular job and cannot play bridge full time, the way Americans and other teams do.

Despite this, Pakistan has done

remarkably well in bridge, better

than any other country in the last ten years and its team

also built up a reputation, not

only as bridge players but great

sportsmen.

"In the last world champion-

ship we played in Miami, and came second," Zia said, "they showed the tournament from an indoor film through a close circuit television, watched by thousands of people. Everyone, including the Americans started hooting and shouting for Pakistan, as we came into the finale. Americans were wearing T-shirts saying 'Paki power.'

I spoke to him for a while

about the recent complaints

and criticism that Pakistan

could not make it to the finals

of the Bermuda Bowl for the last

three years running.

"In 1981," he said, "we came

second and this year we came

third. I thought we did very well.

In Pakistan we were written off

as failures. They feel we should

win the world championship

which America wins, but the

fact is we are thousands of miles

away from that goal.

"Besides, it's a question of

how well or badly you have

done in the light of what?

If you want the Pakistanis to do better,

give them the facilities, a

proper bridge club, send them

out for five months, to the interna-

tional tournament trials, let them

have the practice and

backing they need.

The national airline doesn't

even give them a discount. They

spend their own money win-

ning laurels for their country

and when they did come second

what happened? No one

praised them or called them up.

There was just a small item in

one or two of the newspapers.

How often has Pakistan won a

silver medal? Only squash,

bockey and perhaps cricket,

but no one treats bridge in the

same way."

Next year, when he plays a

major tournament in Muscat

Oman, he hopes to follow it,

with a major bridge event in

Pakistan, where international

bridge stars, including Omar

Sharif can play an exhibition

match.

Indian princess Parbati Baruah prefers elephants to her family.

Royal trainer

By A. Mookerji

JHITKA, India: Deep in the forests of the Himalayan foothills, an Indian princess has dedicated her life to the welfare of wild elephants.

Far from her banker husband and luxurious home at Gauripur in the neighbouring state of Assam, Parbati Baruah has a nomadic life helping the West Bengal forestry department manage the giant beasts.

"I love the forest and the elephants. This is my kind of life and I want to live it this way," says the diminutive aristocrat, a member of a former princely family, standing beside a huge cow elephant.

Baruah, 32, comes from a family which has trapped and trained elephants for 400 years, possibly longer. "The legend goes that my forefathers supplied elephants to the Moghuls invading India," she says.

Her father, Prakritesh Baruah, is a renowned elephant expert.

"At 10 years old I was

accompanying my father on

trapping expeditions. To those

being initiated it is a frightening experience but I enjoyed myself and by the time I was 15 I was participating," she said.

The captured wild elephants were brought back to the family estate in Gauripur where her father taught her how to tame and train them.

Baruah's day begins before dawn as she sets out accompanied by two tame elephants to track down members of the rogue herd.

When she finds them, she drives them further into the forest.

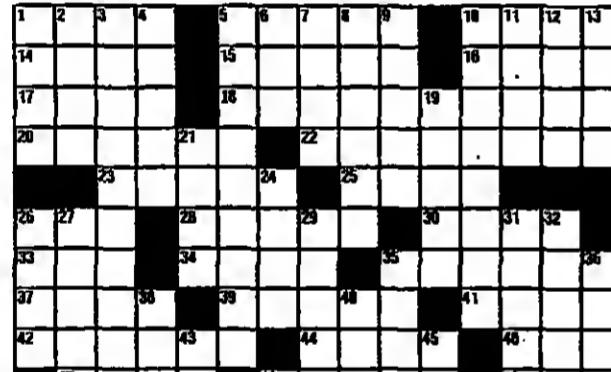
Wild elephants will face more problems in future, as human activity encroaches further on their natural habitat.

"My task will get more and more difficult over the years. It will need more dedication and I will have to spend more time with the animals," she said.

"The last time I met my husband was after an absence of 18 months, and that was for about two hours," she added.

"I don't know how to put it to you—but bluntly my husband and my family are less important. I live for my elephants."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

KEEP CONTROL OF THE SITUATION

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ 10 7 4 2

♥ J 5 4

♦ J 8

♦ A 9 6 2

WEST

♦ K Q 5

♥ A K 10 6 3

♦ 9 7 4

♦ 8 5

EAST

♦ J 8

♥ Q 9 7 2

♦ 3 2

♦ J 10 7 4 3

SOUTH

♦ A 9 6 3

♥ 8

♦ A K Q 10 6 5

♦ K Q

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♦

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

One of the most popular dupli-

cate games in Ft. Worth, Texas, is

run by Bruce Shields. While the

quality of the game is excellent, it

pales in comparison to the home-

cooked buffet dinner served to all

participants.

In a recent game, Shields held the

SWISS PERSPECTIVE

Swiss bank raps ruling on Marcos case

ZURICH: A Swiss bank said it would appeal against a decision obliging it to hand over bank records of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, forcing the issue back to the federal court.

"For us, it is not so much a question of Marcos in particular, rather we are trying to get clarification of fundamental assent is concerned," a spokesman for Credit Suisse told Reuters.

Legal authorities in Zurich last month rejected an appeal by the bank which did not want to release the information.

The Swiss government, in a process known as granting legal assistance, has agreed to lift banking secrecy and help the Philippine government get its hands on an estimated \$1 billion stashed in accounts here by Marcos.

Last July, the federal court unanimously rejected attempts by Marcos, his wife Imelda and their entourage to block legal assistance.

Drive against customs millionaires

SOME 50 customs personnel have become multi-millionaires through corruption and smuggling at the Bureau of Customs.

The list of the names of the "super-rich" customs personnel were already given by lawyer Jaime Ceballos to Congressman Jose Ramirez, House subcommittee chairman on finance and intelligence, on order of Customs Commissioner Salvador Mison.

The names, however, are withheld pending their investigation.

Sources said most of the said personnel were retained during the Customs reorganisation last year and some of them were even promoted and given juicy positions.

As this developed, Commissioner Mison warned a new bureau officials and employees from further committing irregularities even as he blamed notorious businessmen for bribing customs men to facilitate illegal transactions.

Mison, who spoke before the Bishops' Businessmen's Conference, said that there will be no let-up in the drive of the bureau against corrupt officials and employees.

\$1,000 minimum for entertainers in Japan

NOTING the influx of "pseudo entertainers" in their cities, the Japanese government recently offered a higher minimum pay of \$1,000 to Filipino entertainers going there.

The Japanese panel which met recently with officials of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said the move "will weed out pseudo-entertainers."

They said the Japanese immigration office has set the \$1,000 minimum pay and that any contract stipulating a lower pay will not be issued visa.

POEA officials said the \$1,000 minimum pay does not include allowances and other fringe benefits.

Three cops in kidnap charges

CEBU CITY, (PNA) - Three Cebu City policemen, including an officer, and two civilians were charged with kidnapping with ransom before the Mandaya City fiscal's office in connection with the alleged abduction of a wealthy Butuan City logger in Cebu City last March 3.

The five were charged with the kidnapping of Teofilo Concon, a visiting Mindanao logger whom they allegedly released only after paying P150,000 in ransom.

Fake P50 bills seized

A COUNTERFEIT gang believed run by a group of still unidentified dwellers in Manila's Muslim Centre was uncovered by the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB) in buy-bust operation on Echague St., Quiapo, Manila.

EIIB Commissioner Jose T. Almonte said some P25,000 in fake P50 bills was seized by an eight-man special operations group (SOG) team headed by agent Lucillo Porfirio.

The bogus money, according to Porfirio, was passed by a suspected courier to another EIIB-SOG undercover who fled upon seeing the approaching lawmen.

Solar eclipse: the best ever

GENERAL SANTOS CITY: Scientists and spectators from here and around the world last week gazed up in awe while animals went berserk as a three-minute solar eclipse blotted out this southern city and nearby areas.

Life also ground to a halt in other parts of the Philippines as people turned out for the eclipse, covering their eyes with photo negatives, X-ray films, welding goggles and soot-covered glass.

Thousands of people, including foreign astronomers, tourists and journalists gathered here and in nearby Davao City to watch a natural phenomenon that will not be seen in this country for another 54 years.

Roosters crowed, dogs howled, birds chirped at nighttimes and other animals displayed unusual behaviour during the eclipse.

At the peak of the eclipse, the sun was a dark sphere with a blazing corona on its edges, temperature dropped by two degrees, and car headlights and street lamps stood out in the darkness.

Others shouted in excitement, but some spectators stood silently pointing to the sky, some apparently affected by rumours of three days of darkness peddled by religious sects and some clarity.

Experts said General Santos offered the best view of the



Employees at a Makati office in Manila used X-ray films to watch the spectacle of the covered sun.

It was fantastic," said a German astronomer, Charles Josef Scharrenbrock, who momentarily forgot the loss of his passport as he swam in a nearby lake.

But President Aquino, who timed one of her periodic inspection trips so she could view the eclipse here, missed much of the spectacle because clouds obscured the view from where she was watching, a member of her party said.

People in Metro Manila had a good view of a crescent sun as it was partially covered by the moon which swept past amid clear skies.

"It's here, it's here, it's getting dark," exclaimed Kim Nagasuban, a 26-year-old telephone operator who momentarily abandoned her job like many other residents of General Santos, for a view of the moon at about 9:06

Scientists viewed and recorded the event with sophisticated telescopes, cameras and videotape equipment from a temporary observatory on the rooftop of the General Santos City Hall as some 5,000 spectators gathered below.

But some, who expected to experience darkness as it is known at night, were disappointed to see that the sky only darkened as it does at dusk.

Experts said General Santos offered the best view of the

Contingency plans for Filipino workers in Iraq

THE Philippine government has started implementing its contingency plans for the evacuation of Filipino workers in Baghdad, Iraq in the wake of the worsening conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Labour Secretary Franklin M. Drilon told newsmen that the evacuation centre for the Filipino workers in Baghdad is some 250 kilometres northwest of that city.

Drilon said the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad and the labour attache in the area are cooperating to effect the evacuation made necessary by the intensified exchanges of missile attacks by Iran and Iraq.

He said the Department of Labour and Employment is remitting \$5,000 for the initial evacuation expenses.

"The evacuation site has accommodations for 350 to 500 people," Drilon said, adding most Filipinos in Baghdad were overstaying contract workers

whose work contract have long expired."

Drilon said the government was considering seriously the implementation of another evacuation option — the removal of Filipinos in Iraq — should the war between Iran and Iraq worsen further.

He said he has received no report of Filipino casualties so far. He implied that the government, much as it wants to, cannot do much about overseas Filipinos who do not want to be evacuated.

The labour chief said he had no report from Tehran, where there are also some Filipino workers.

Tomás Achacoso, director of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), said there not too many Filipinos in Iran as there were no deployments there since the outbreak of the war.

Earlier, Department of

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus instructed the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad to be ready to implement the evacuation plan for the 5,000 Filipino workers there when it becomes necessary.

Philippine Ambassador to Iran Suroto Usodan reported to the DFA secretary that it was evacuating 65 Filipino workers based in Tehran. 35 members of their families, 50 Filipinos women married to Iranians, and their children.

In Iraq, Philippine Ambassador Akman Sakkam said he does not recommend at the moment the evacuation of embassy staff and Filipino workers.

He reported, however, that the embassy has made preparations, such as identifying the evacuation centre northwest of Baghdad which can accommodate 1,000 people "if the situation worsens. (E.T. Suarez)

Understanding Filipino Muslims

young is carefully monitored. While the situation is now quite different with respect to Christian groups, the Muslims for the most part still tend to feel that any association with the opposite sex outside of the immediate clan, or beyond the most formal manner, makes a young lady less desirable as a future spouse. Free association of the young is perceived to be threatening both to the concept of premarital chastity and to the influence of the family over the marital choice.

Islam permits a man to have up to four wives but demands that he shall treat them, and provide for them, equally. Separate households are always maintained if the co-wives are the same age, although if there is a major difference in age, they may opt to live together.

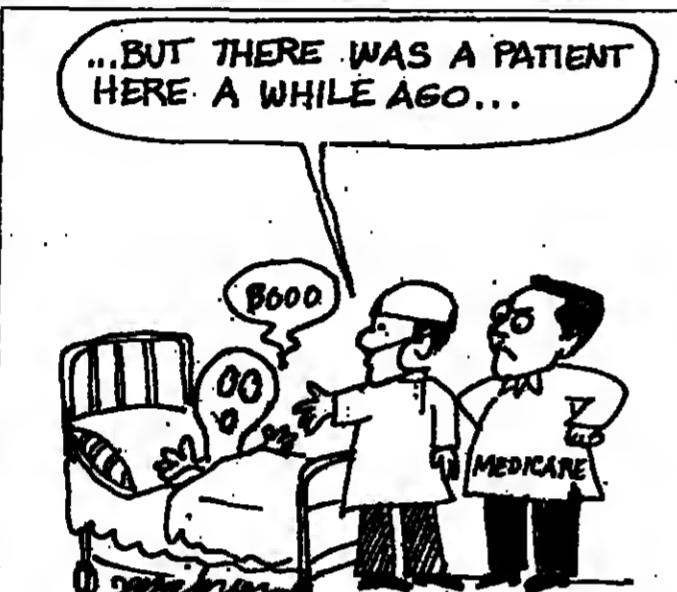
There is nothing particularly Islamic about Muslim Filipino clothing styles and habits except that Islamic prohibitions concerning nudity are observed, more strictly in some places than others. When miniskirts were in style, they were seen being worn in Jolo not by Muslim women but by Christians. The rule for Muslim Filipino women is modesty in dress, the ideal being exposure only of the hands and feet and head from the neck up.

Traditional Filipino society generally, whether Christian or Muslim, regards the chastity of the prospective bride as an important virtue. Thus, the premarital background of the

With the prospect of fighting once again erupting in the Muslim South, getting to know more about our Filipino Muslim brothers and their lifestyle will be of great interest. The rule for Muslim Filipino women is modesty in dress, the ideal being exposure only of the hands and feet and head from the neck up.

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Courtesy: The People



'Ghost patients' busted

By Eva S. Diaz

EVER heard of hospitals treating ghost patients?

The health department apparently has heard of such cases as it moved to penalise these hospitals which claim Medicare benefits for "ghost patients."

Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon said the health department will stop honouring Medicare claims by at least 447 hospitals which have cheated the government of health funds and violated Medicare laws unless they "shape up."

Others, he added, split the confinement dates of patients to claim separate benefits at different rates.

Bengzon also said other hospitals have not complied with Medicare rules.

For more than a year now, Bengzon said these hospitals have chosen to ignore the health department's notices on their deficiencies, he said.

According to Medicare officials, some hospitals "sap our funds" by making anomalous declarations of Medicare claims of patients they treat.

Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon, who is also Medicare chairman, cited the case of one hospital which claimed expenses for a patient after he had died. An investigation by Medicare showed that the patient had died two weeks before he was supposed to have been confined, based on hospital records presented.

Unless they comply with requirements by the end of this month, Bengzon said the health department would start discrediting them from the government Medicare programme.

Should the violations continue, the Medicare would also be forced to stop paying their claims, he said.

posed to have been confined, based on hospital records presented.

Another hospital is said to have submitted claims for X-ray examinations with conflicting records. X-ray films of adult patients had been submitted for supposed paediatric cases.

They said the country must face the fact that the Americans will leave if they find no more need for their military bases here.

A group of congressmen and reporters noted a rising concern among 45,000 Filipino workers at Subic Naval Base here whose existence will depend on the results of the negotiations of the military bases agreement starting next month.

Their visit to the base of the US 7th Fleet was capped by the holding of the "Talakayan sa Makati," a weekly media forum at the Admial Royal Hotel here.

At the "Talakayan Forum" were Rep. Raul Roco (Laban, Camarines Sur), chairman of the House special committee on the military bases; Rep. Felicito Payumo (LP, Bataan), a member of the House foreign affairs committee, proposing a \$1.5 million compensation package will be a mainstay for a fallback position in the bilateral talks.

Gordon said that he is in favour of retaining the US bases which give \$1.5 million in government revenue every month until the Philippines develops its own economic and military visibility.

The city mayor said this may be achieved in the next five years.

Roco condemned the perennial "hegar's position" of Filipinos in dealing with the Americans and, along with Gordon and Payumo, urged a "strong political will to demonstrate that the people are capable of lifting themselves by their bootstraps."

Fr. Cullen urged the ahrogation of the US bases agreement, saying their presence made the Philippines a pawn in the battle between the US and the Soviet Union.

It's about time we get to know our Muslim brothers, and appreciate their historical role in the development of the Filipino identity.

Almost the first thing about

Job seekers fall prey to glib tongues

By Eva S. Diaz

DESPITE an intensified drive against illegal recruitment, many Filipino job seekers seem not to learn and fall prey to glib-tongued illegal recruiters.

A telex sent to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration by a West German firm showed a total of 640 Filipino workers have been gyped by three German nationals who

posed as recruiters for the firm.

The telex, sent to POEA director Estela Espiritu by the company's overseas department, said the three German impostors have been using their company's name despite their non-affiliation with it.

The firm identified the three recruiters as Heinz W. Bohnes, K. Mueller and Walter Hartman. They allegedly used the address of a firm which is non-existent and telephone number which

later was found to be that of an electrical supplier in Frankfurt.

Espiritu said the 640 Filipinos are most probably "jobless there and might be facing deportation charges."

He said the German firm informed POEA that the three impostors had already gyped many job applicants before.

Sources at the POEA also said that the Germans have been in and out of the country "victimizing employees."

PBA separates the men from the boys

By Recah Trinidad

JERRY Codinera, 21, is well on his way to picking up his first couple of million pesos before he turns 24. But the promising six-foot-five centre of the Philippine national team wants to make a clarification. Making a fortune on the hardcourt, he swears, was not part of his original playing plot.

"I just consider the PBA a big challenge," Jerry explains. "I know it at the league where a player has to prove his real worth."

The big money? Now that there is for the picking, Jerry says he has to work doubly hard to earn every cent of it. This means working with weights, developing more speed, putting on more basketball muscles. Jerry weighs 250 pounds.

Striking it rich in the PBA was not on Jerry's young mind, but don't tell that to his father, policeman Filomeno Codinera Jr., Mr. Baseball of the previous sporting era. When friends, a few years back, started teasing the elder Codinera that he had "money in the bank" in Jerry, who by then had started stunting for Danding Cojuangco's famous NCC squad, the proud father could only nod, both amused and flattered.

Boy Codinera, as Filomeno is popularly known in sports circles, worked himself into a hulking heavyweight, in an effort to add more clout to his famous swat. He succeeded. But the best he got were memories, playing trips abroad, trophies and

his boys from the baseball diamond. But the wised Manila cop is straight to the point: he hates to see his kids starve.

Basketball is where the big money is. Ask Robert Jaworski Ramon Fernandez, concededly two of the first basketball millionaires in town.

Basketball has been very good to him, Jaworski explains, one reason he always tried to treat the game kindly. If he often loses his cool over spotty officiating, Jaworski says, it's because he wants to keep the league (PBA) in one piece.

"Look, at lot of people profit from the league, I myself profit from the PBA, the referees profit from the PBA," Jaworski says, "so it's our duty to see to it that fairness reigns in the league. Even poor daily wage-earners find relief following the fortunes of their teams in the PBA, but if officials cannot assure these simple fans that their teams would get a fair deal during the games, how do you expect them to continuously patronise the league?"

So the Big J, who had threatened to quit the PBA following his team's nightmarish experience at the hands of referees during the semifinals of the recent Reinforced Conference, is definitely seeing action this season.

Favoured

"Baseball was my love, but basketball, whether we like it or not, is the real lucrative sport," Boy Codinera explains. "We just have to be practical."

The young Codineras are favoured by good height. Boy Codinera is himself a hefty six-footer. But he agrees that his kids took from their grandpa on their mother's side who towered above Filipinos at six-foot-three.

SPECIAL

Alshall price indices

Sharp increase in Kuwait trade volume

ALSHALL index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 37.61 points with an increase of 0.07 points over last week.

Alshall index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 48.43 points with an increase of 1.41 points for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 27.45 million shares at a daily average of 5.49 million shares with a substantial increase of 128 per cent over the previous week daily average of 2.41 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 27.16 million shares at a daily average of 4.43 million shares with an increase of 22.3 per cent over last week daily average of 4.44 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD5.52 million at a daily average of KD1.1 million representing an increase of 83 per cent over last week daily average of KD0.603 million. The value of Gulf traded shares was KD0.907 million at a daily average of KD0.181 million at an increase of 65 per cent over last week daily average of KD0.11 million.

In spite of the general increase in the market yet, about 80 per cent of the jump in Gulf shares' index is due to the deletion of two companies from trading by the stock exchange.

Those companies were not traded for a long time and their prices were very low. This resulted in increasing the gap between Kuwait

and Gulf price indices to about 11 points in favour of Gulf shares.

For Kuwaiti shares the services sector had the lead at 52 per cent of total trading of which Kuwaiti commercial markets had 69 per cent followed by Mobile Telephone Systems at 23 per cent than Kuwait Computer Company at 4 per cent.

The banking sector came second at 21.8 per cent of which the Gulf Bank had 30.6 per cent followed by Kuwait National Bank at 26.4 per cent then the Commercial Bank and Kuwait Finance House at 16 per cent each.

The investment sector came third at 17 per cent of which Investment Pearl Kuwait had 87.3 per cent followed by the commercial facilities at 6.2 per cent.

For Gulf shares other companies' sector had the lead at 65.4 per cent. Ras Al Khaimah White Cement ranked first at 50.4 per cent followed by Bahrain International Bank at 18.3 per cent then Gulf Investments Company at 9.8 per cent.

The apparent increase in the volume and value of traded shares is partly related to the weak performance of the market during the previous weeks and in particular last week which is our reference point of comparison for this week. It can also be related to the concentration of trading in certain companies for special reasons such as the big jump of trading in the services sector due to the concentration on Kuwaiti commercial markets.

French brokerage firm seeks Gulf investors

By Jadranka Porter

FINAFUTRESSA, a growing French brokerage company operating on international financial futures and options markets, is seeking to add Gulf investors to its list of clients.

The company's General Manager, Philippe Ogier is currently in Kuwait on the first leg of a Gulf tour which will also take him to Bahrain, the UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Reputation

The company's approach is twofold. It can play a consultative role but it also offers a wide range of brokerage services in futures as well as opportunities to invest in portfolio management.

Finafutures is a subsidiary of Finacor, one of the largest European continental interbank brokerage houses. Finacor, which has a fine reputation as a money broker, helps Finafutures



Philippe Ogier

combine into its strategy the two dimensions of the financial markets, cash and futures.

This is particularly important, claims Ogier, because of a worldwide trend towards greater integration of cash and futures markets. "Futures markets and more generally out-of-balance

sheet markets are gaining in importance in the financial world but they remain closely linked to interbank markets" says Ogier.

Finafutures' activities are divided into three main areas of operation.

Strategies

In Paris, Finafutures is cooperating closely with its parent company Finacor promoting arbitrage strategies between traditional markets such as Eurodeposit and domestic futures market such as the MATIF (Marche à terme des instruments financiers) in which the Finacor Group is the leader.

In Chicago, Finafutures Inc. is acting as an independent broker trading in currencies, interest rates, indices and other futures and options markets.

The Chicago office provides an immediate access to the American market and handles a large chunk of the company's business. Finafutures is capable

of providing worldwide brokerage services through its correspondents.

In addition, Finafutures Inc. is marketing through some of its US contacts, a variety of trading programmes in futures. These include a scheme whereby the invested capital is guaranteed by a firstclass signature.

Capital

The minimum investment capital for this programme is \$500,000 and the average annual returns over a 10 year period have been over 50 per cent.

Another package is a non-guaranteed programme with the minimum investment capital of \$250,000 with average returns over a 10 year period of more than 100 percent.

A programme for smaller investors includes a private placement of a minimum of \$20,000 with no guarantee on the invested amount but with an option to subscribe or withdraw on a monthly basis.

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A programme for smaller investors includes a private placement of a minimum of \$20,000 with no guarantee on the invested amount but with an option to subscribe or withdraw on a monthly basis.

Fixed period rates were steady at Thursday's closing levels but some day-to-day deposits edged higher in response to position covering by bank shorts of funds.

Dealers reported demand for tomorrow-next funds, which traded at levels of around 6/5.8, 1/8 per cent. Spot-next edged up to 6/3.4, 1/4 per cent while one-week rose 1/8 point to 6/5.8, 1/8 per cent.

One, three and six months deposits were steady at 6/9-16/3, 8 per cent, 6/13-16/11, 16/16 per cent and 7-5/16, 1/8 per cent respectively.

One-year was also little changed at 7-11/16, 1/2 per cent.

The spot rate was steady at 3.7502/06 to the dollar.

Experts to discuss future of Gulf aluminium industry

A CONSULTATIVE technical committee on aluminium manufacturing in the Gulf is scheduled to hold a meeting here on Tuesday to discuss the future of the aluminium industry in the Gulf region.

A member of the committee, who is also vice president of the Arab Association of Engineering Industries, Mohammed Naki, told Kuna that the meeting would discuss the unification of efforts of the Gulf Cooperation Council states in addition to Iraq in the field of aluminium manufacturing and ways of boosting such industry in the international market.

The UK authorities tend to be much happier with higher rates, which would in theory serve to reduce consumer spending and inflationary pressures, but sterling would have to lose its current attraction for a rise to be feasible.

It now appears that the downside for interest rates was limited, and the outlook was for a steady to slightly firmer run-in to Easter.

The immediate prospect is for stable interest rates, in the absence of any major economic indicators until after the Easter holiday, the market is likely to track fluctuations in sterling very closely.

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ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

For Rent

OURTOBA, Block 1, Street 6, House No. 5, 1/2 villa, 4 bedrooms, big salon, 2 bathrooms, laundry room, big kitchen, central AC. Tel. Abdul Aziz, 5313648, 4-8 pm. (AT6-41549-3)

IN Salwa, deluxe flat, semi-furnished, two bedrooms near the Sunshine School. Rent KD140. Tel. Singh, 2421488 res. 5638324, 8am - 1 pm, 4-7 pm. (AT2-41559-3)

IN Jabiya, near Hadi Hospital. Central AC, tel. line, two spacious bedrooms, large sitting and dining rooms, two bathrooms, kitchen and balcony. Tel. 5313293, 5334430, 5-8 pm. (AT1-41560-3)

IN Salwa, Block 1, behind the Indian School. Deluxe CAC flat, 3 bedrooms, 1 dining room, 2 sitting rooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, CAC. Rent KD400. Tel. Mobarak, 5657717, 5628032, 9079111. (AT2-41576-3)

JABRIYA, 1/2 villa, excellent location, 3 bedrooms, one master bedroom, 2-1/2 bathrooms, living and dining rooms, with or without swimming pool. Tel. 5339280, 5339281. (AT6-41535-6)

SALWA, deluxe, CAC, brand new apartment comprising 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, 2 bathrooms and large fitted kitchen. Rent KD300. Tel. 5391720/5382783. (AT3-41477-6)

Available

SALMIYA, behind Mercedes Showroom, for Indian bachelors sharing with bachelors. Bus 15, 19, 24, 519, 30. Tel. 5749750 from 10 am - 9 pm. (AT6-41548-3)

SALMIYA, one bedroom and bathroom for one or two persons. KD60. Tel. Tawfiq, 2462710. (AT6-41540-3)

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ADMISSION NOTICE

Admissions started for L.K.G., U.K.G., 1st & 2nd standards (morning shift only) for 1988-89 academic year starting from April. Application forms are available from school in Farwaniya, Block No. 86, Street No. 88 (behind Al-Tadamon Sports Club & Al-Basheer & Al-Manar School). Transport by air-conditioned buses available.

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Electronics

SONY Handcam video camera, 8mm with a case. Rarely used. KD250. Tel. 2561236. (AT2-41583-3)

Cars

CHEVROLET Impala 79 model, AC, automatic, green. In good condition. KD450 cash. Tel. Mr. Siva, 5619758/9/805, 7 am - 6 pm. (AT4-41504-6)

HONDA Civic, 1981, silver, automatic, AC, in very good condition. KD495 cash. Tel. Mr. Ashan, 4878197, after 1 pm only. (AT2-41580-3)

RENAULT 9, '87 model, AC, automatic, white, 7,000 kms with one year guarantee. Highest offer. Tel. 5742900, 5-8 pm. (AT4-41551-3)

NISSAN Skyline, 1973, manual, 12 months insured, new tyres, recent re-spray, very reliable. KD195 cash. Tel. Mr. Ashan, 4878197 after 1 pm. (AT2-41579-3)

NISSAN Laurel, 1982 model, green with AC and heater, well maintained in show room condition. KD560. Tel. Wazeer, 5723573. (AT2-41574-3)

TOYOTA Cressida, 1983 DX, AC, blue, automatic transmission. In good condition. KD1100 ono cash. Tel. M. S. Nasoordean, 4895149. (AT2-41575-3)

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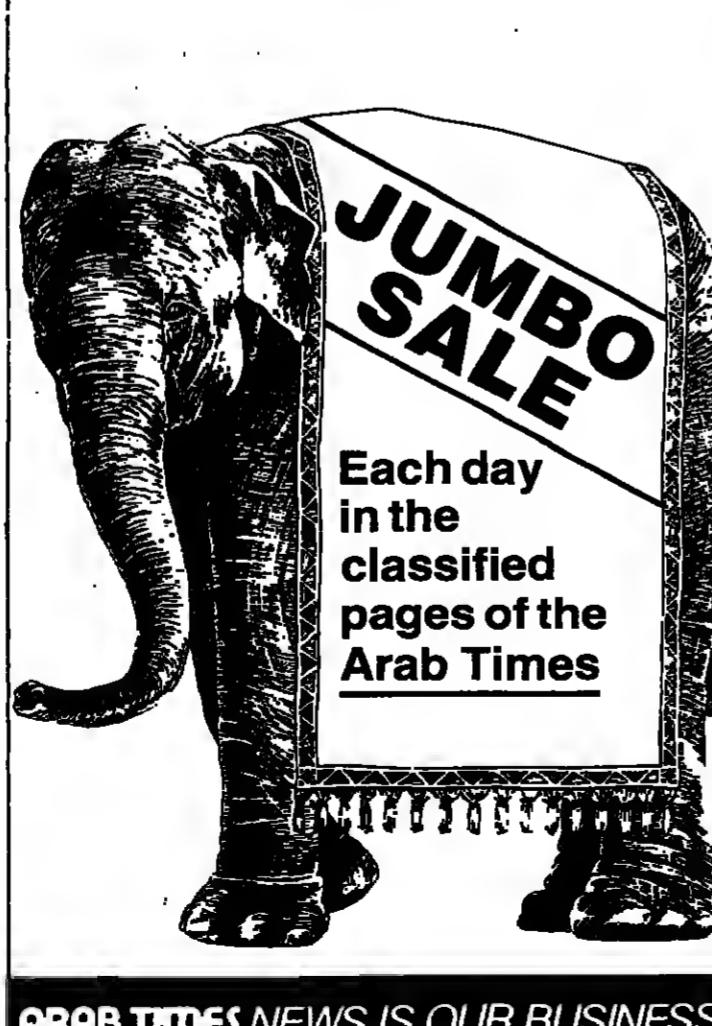
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Luxury furnished 2 bedroom flat in Tameer Complex, near Hilton Hotel. Swimming pool & tennis courts. Underground parking. Available from end June.

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Contact Glen, 2423166/7



ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

MARKET PLACE

DATSON Nissan Stanza, 1982, AC, automatic, white, power steering, sunroof, hatchback, low mileage, in excellent condition. Price negotiable. Tel. Daniel, 4730377, 4-8 pm. (AT1-41562-3)

HOLDEN, 1978, AC, in excellent condition. Maintained by an engineer. Single owner. Going very cheap. Tel. 2418824/4331985, 8-8 pm. (AT2-41571-3)

3 Italian salon chairs, hardly used. Tel. Ibrahim, 2634581. (AT2-41568-3)

FURNISHED flat, rent KD. 110 and TV, video, AC, bedset, sofa, dining table, refrigerator, gas cooker, etc. and Daihatsu car 80 model. Tel. Malik, 5639739, any time. (AT1-41554-3)

SITTING ROOM set, three seater, four smchairs, four tables, curtains, cassette recorder with radio and boxes, fridge, gascooker, div. kitchen items. Tel. 5736980, 10 am - 2 pm. (AT1-41550-3)

OLIVETTE electronic typewriter with display/correction/memory KD80, detachable Danish dining-table with chairs KD60, 180 watts Yamaha CA-800 amplifier KD40, Technics tape deck KD40. Tel. 5736980, 10 am - 1.30 pm. (AT2-41570-3)

MAID required, Sri Lankan, for a small family to live-in. Tel. 4339668. (AT2-41577-2)

A maid, urgently required for an Arab family, living in London. Must be able to cook. Tel. 2520730-2533584, 9-10 am, 2-5 pm. (AT6-41537-3)

Transport

REQUIRED From Salimya Ondian School to Kuwait City (near Plaza) and back 8 am - 5 pm. Tel. 2401242/3. (AT2-41570-3)

LOST

BRIEFCASE, red, containing personal and bank documents, lost at the International Airport car parking. Tel. Shamshir Ali, 2649460, after 8.30 pm. (AT2-41539-2)

Wanted

DOMESTIC, Sri Lankan, with knowledge of English, seeks employment with English families full-time or part-time holding a transferable residence. Tel. 5631606, 8 - 11 am only. (AT2-41578-3)

**ACCOMMODATION
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A 28-year-old New Zealander requires sharing accommodation in a good apartment or villa, preferably with expatriates. Contact: Chris

2442375 (work),
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Excellent condition with 2-3-4

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MANAGEMENT

Al-Messilah Beach Hotel

Al

Stewart hits 65 for Players tourney lead

PONTE VEDRA, Fla., March 26. (Reuter): Payne Stewart fired a sensational seven-under-par 65 yesterday to take the second round lead at the \$1.25 million Players' Championship golf tournament with an eight-under-par 136 total.

Stewart vaulted into the lead with an eagle three on the 582-yard ninth hole after a long drive and a three-wood to within 15 feet of the cup.

He had six birdies to go with his eagle and one lone bogey over the demanding 6,857-yard tournament. Players Club layout to seize a one-shot lead over first round leader Mark McCumber and Mike Reid.

Posted

McCumber, who opened with a 65 on Thursday, struggled to an even-par 72 in strong winds that left him at seven-under-par 137 along with Reid, who posted a three-under-par 69.

South African David Frost is still in contention for his first tour title and the \$225,000 first place prize after he finished with a one-under-par 71 for a six-under-par 138 total along with Dan Pohl and Morris Hatalsky. Curt Byrum, Gil Morgan and former Players' Championship winner Calvin Peete are only three back at five-under-par 139 with several other players only four back at four-under-par 140, including Australian Greg Norman, who struggled to a two-over-par 74.

Defending champion Sandy Lyle of Britain missed the cut, after finishing at 152, while Spain's Seve Ballesteros was another victim after his 78 left him at 10-over-par 154. The cut came at two-over par with 72 players surviving for the final two days of play.

Missed

Stewart's round of 65 was only one off the course record of 64 set by Fred Couples in 1984 and is even more remarkable in that he missed two short birdie putts of three feet and four feet.

"It was a great round of golf," said Stewart. "My best this year when you take into consideration the difficulty of the course and the wind. It was one of the best ball striking rounds I've had in a long time."

Alcott and Walker share top place

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 26. (Reuter): First round leader Amy Alcott scrambled to an even-par 73 yesterday and compatriot American Colleen Walker posted a two-under-par 71 to tie Alcott after 36 holes with an eight-under-par 138 total in the \$350,000 Turquoise Classic women's golf tournament.

Alcott started the day with a birdie on the first hole and followed with birdies on the third and fourth holes. A birdie chip-in from 20 yards on the 10th hole put her at 12-under-par for the tournament.

However, Alcott bogeyed the 12th hole after placing her shot in the bunker and failed to get up and down. She scrambled to save pars on the 13th, 15th and 16th holes before bogeying the 17th from another bunker. A double bogey on the 18th dropped Alcott to eight-under-par after her drive hit a tree and bounced into the water.

Forward

"I scrambled on the back nine but my scrambling came as a result of good shots," said Alcott. "Scrambling makes the round fun. I'm playing well and I'm looking forward to tomorrow."

Co-leader Colleen Walker was just the opposite, hitting 17 greens in regulation in recording a two-under-par 71.

"I had a very steady round and I'm pleased." Her round included three birdies and one bogey, her only bogey of the tournament.

"I'm surprised to find myself in the lead because the conditions are perfect for low scores," added Walker.

South Korean Ok-Hee Ku posted the low round of the day, a 68 to go with her opening round 71 and left her one stroke off the pace with a 139 total.

The winner of this tournament tomorrow will collect first prize money of \$52,500.

Thailand Open

BANGKOK, March 26. (Reuter): Taiwan's Chen Liang Hsi scored a two-under-par 70 for a three round score of 207 to retain his one-stroke lead in the \$100,000 Thailand Open golf championship today.

But first-round leader Hsieh Yu Shu, also of Taiwan, whose poor putting dropped him down the field yesterday, drew back into contention with the best round of the tournament, a six-under-par 66, to end the day on 208.

Australia's Jeff Senior shot a 68 to move into third position on

WILANDER OVERCOMES NOAH FOR FINAL

Angry Connors outplays Mecir



Connors rejoices at winning the semifinal. (Reuter wirephoto)

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida, March 26. (AP): Jimmy Connors was penalised the final point of the second set for a temper tantrum, but regained his composure and beat Milos Mecir 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in yesterday's semifinals of the International Players Championships.

Top-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden scored 11 straight points in one stretch as he eliminated No. 6 Yannick Noah of France 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 last evening in the other semifinal.

Incensed

Top-seeded Steffi Graf of West Germany was to play No. 2 Chris Evert of the United States in the women's finals this evening.

Connors argued when a Mecir shot was called good, and he became incensed after umpire Richard Kaufman gave him a warning for unsportsmanlike conduct. When the argument continued, Kaufman assessed the American a penalty point for delay of game.

Because Mecir was leading 5-3, 40-30, the penalty point gave him the set, the first Connors had lost in the two-week, \$2.1-million tournament.

Connors then lost the first three games of the third set.

"My mind was kind of blank at that time," he said. "The best thing to do was just try to get my composure back and get a few balls in play."

For the rest of the three-hour match, Connors concentrated on

his Czech opponent. Connors broke serve three straight times to save the set and then rushed to a 5-1 lead in the last set as he eliminated the No. 3 seed and defending champion.

Noah, plagued by inconsistency in his serves and volleys, trailed 6-4, 4-1 before he won three straight games and led 40-love on his serve.

But Wilander won every point in the remainder of the set and then broke Noah's serve to start the final set.

Connors' dispute with Kaufman began in the first set after the umpire overruled a linesman who had called a Mecir shot wide.

"I can't beat both of you," Connors told Kaufman. "You're doing a bad job."

When Alan Mills of Britain, the tournament referee, and Stefan Fransson of Sweden, the Grand Prix supervisor, came onto the court, Connors told them he wanted Kaufman replaced.

"Either he goes or I go," Connors said. "I'll do the same thing I did two years ago. Tell me what right I have as a player. I'm not going to continue being beaten."

Later, during a changeover, Connors berated Kaufman using obscene language. Connors also made several obscene gestures during the match, but he wasn't warned or penalised in the final two sets.

Connors said Connors will be fined. The amount will be determined when an investigation of the dispute is concluded, Fransson said.

Connors pointed at Kaufman and shouted. "I'm warning you. I'm warning you."

When the delay penalty was assessed, Connors picked up a cup of water near the umpire and threw it. He then knocked over his chair with his racket.

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Boitano during the long programme. (Reuter wirephoto)

Boitano takes crown

BUDAPEST, March 26. (Reuter): American Brian Boitano regained the men's world figure skating title yesterday despite a performance which fell short of his Olympic gold medal display in Calgary last month.

Orser, the defending champion, won the silver medal while Viktor Petrenko of the Soviet Union salvaged the bronze despite a series of mistakes. Grzegorz Filipek of Poland, second before the finale, was the overall leader.

Thomas excited the crowd with a jazzy performance and earned first-place marks from five judges, giving her first place in the short programme, which counts for 20 per cent of the total score.

Accomplished

Canadian Kurt Browning made figure skating history earlier in the evening when he accomplished a quadruple jump for the first time in competition.

His achievement was immediately ratified by the International Skating Union (ISU) and pre-empted Boitano's later attempt, though the American two-footed his landing and could not have claimed the honour.

Deccan thrash Diamond

DECCAN BLUES: Cricket Club, which joined the cricket scene in the middle of the present season, scored their fourth victory when they beat Diamond Cricket Club by 36 runs at the Church ground on Friday.

Deccan, after having been put in to bat, lost Dr Naidu and the other opener Shahid early on in the innings. Mumtaz Hussain and Hafiz repaired the damage by putting on 88 runs for the third wicket before Hafiz was out for 36 with the score at 104.

Mumtaz kept on batting brilliantly and went on to score 130 as his team scored 192 in 25 overs. This was Mumtaz' third century of the season and he hit three sixes and 15 fours.

For Diamond, Liaquat bowled well to take three wickets for 33.

Deccan started their innings on an excellent note by scoring 70 runs in the first 10 overs, helped by fielding lapses by the Deccan fielders. But the Deccan bowlers soon settled down to an accurate line and length to take control of the match.

Shahid Ali Khan took four



Mumtaz: 3rd ton.

wickets for 16 runs in only five overs as Diamond were only able to put on 156 in 24.3 overs.

Liaquat with 60 runs was the top scorer for Diamond. The other batsmen failed to reach the double figures were Asghar, Shahid and Hafiz with 14 runs each and Afzal who scored 13.

The other Deccan players to bowl well were Akhilesh with two for 20 in five overs and Hafiz with one wicket. Hafiz was also responsible for three of Diamond's batsmen being run out.

Wojdat and Jager break world records

ORLANDO, Florida, March 26. (UPI): Tom Jager and Artur Wojdat broke world records yesterday in the Phillips 66-US Swimming Indoor National Championships.

Jager, the world record holder in the 50-metre freestyle, lowered his mark to 22.23 seconds, while Wojdat became the first Polish swimmer in history to claim a world record in the 400-metre freestyle.

Wojdat, 19, who is part of an elite group of Polish swimmers allowed to train in Mission Viejo, California, kicked off the evening's record onslaught in Justus Aquatic Centre, winning his event in 3:47.38.

Broken

Jager, a member of the 1984 US Olympic team, shaved nine one-hundredths of a second off of his record set last summer in the Pan Pacific Swimming Association Championships at Brisbane, Australia.

"I had a dream last night that my family was watching the news and they saw that someone had broken the world record in the 400-metre free, and that it was me," Wojdat said.

Dara Torres set two US records. She set the mark in the 50-metre freestyle with 25.59 in morning preliminaries, then broke the American record in the 100-metre freestyle on the opening leg of the 4 x 100 metre freestyle relay.

PBAK to hold handicap bowling

Non-pro Bowling League

For those who did not play in the league, the handicap will be based on the 3-game average in the PBAK Open Bowling Tournament.

Handicap may also be considered from other leagues and tournaments recognised by PBAK. The score of each bowler will be taken from the total 3-game series plus handicap for both men and women.

Details

The last date for entries is April 6 at 8:00 pm and the fee is KD

SPORTS

UNITED TAME WEST HAM TO REMAIN IN 2ND PLACE

Liverpool return to winning form

LONDON, March 26. (Reuters): Liverpool top scorer John Aldridge returned from injury and thrust the runaway English League leaders back on their winning ways against Wimbleton today.

Ireland international striker Aldridge, who missed the last four matches because of groin trouble, headed 33-minute goal to put Liverpool on course for a 2-1 win that John Barnes sealed with a second-half strike.

Aldridge's goal in blustery conditions at Anfield was his 22nd of the season in all competitions and helped to maintain a 14-point lead for Liverpool, who have now won 23 of their 31 First Division Games.

Dented

The result also enabled Liverpool to regain a measure of the pride which had been dented when city rivals Everton inflicted their first League defeat of 1987-88 last Sunday, ending a record-making 29-match sequence from the start of a season.

Liverpool's irresistible form has left the rest of the division chasing shadows, with Manchester United staying in second place after a 3-1 home win against West Ham.

Defending champions Everton heat bottom club Watford 2-1 away to remain in third place.

Standings

LONDON, March 26. (Reuters): English and Scottish League scores tables after matches played today (tableau under — played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

English Division One						
Liverpool	31	17	11	1	69	15 76
Manchester U	32	17	11	3	51	31 62
Everton	32	17	8	4	44	19 59
Q.P.R.	32	16	7	3	39	32 55
Notts Forest	30	15	9	6	53	27 54
Arsenal	31	15	8	8	48	28 53
Wimbledon	31	13	9	4	44	34 48
Tottenham	35	11	10	4	35	43 52
Sheffield Wed	33	13	4	6	39	53 43
Southampton	33	10	13	3	39	32 40
Coventry	33	10	13	2	39	32 40
Newcastle	31	9	12	10	38	44 39
Norwich	31	11	6	16	34	33 39
Luton	28	11	7	12	40	38 38
West Ham	32	8	12	3	32	33 43
Derby	32	8	11	3	28	34 35
Chelsea	33	8	10	5	42	38 34
Charlton	37	7	11	5	32	47 32
Portsmouth	31	6	12	3	27	38 30
Oxford	31	6	10	3	39	62 28
Watford	31	5	8	18	19	41 32

English Division Two						
Aston Villa	32	20	8	63	66	70
Blackburn	37	19	11	7	57	41 68
Middlesbrough	37	18	11	8	48	28 65
Millwall	37	19	10	12	59	43 64
Bradford	37	18	10	11	56	46 52
Leeds	38	17	10	11	56	46 52
Crystal P	36	18	6	12	72	53 60
Stoke	38	16	9	13	46	56 57
Manchester C	37	16	7	14	68	51 55
Ipswich	37	15	7	14	48	54 52
Hull	36	13	11	12	47	51 50
Swindon	33	14	7	12	60	45 59
Plymouth	35	14	7	14	57	53 49
Plymouth	36	14	7	15	53	51 59
Oldham	36	14	7	13	54	48 58
Leicester	37	16	7	13	52	46 56
Birmingham	37	16	12	13	52	46 56
Bournemouth	36	10	9	17	48	57 39
West Brom	37	11	6	20	40	61 39
Sheffield U	37	11	6	20	40	63 39
Shrewsbury	37	8	13	12	33	47 37
Reading	35	8	7	19	38	60 32
Huddersfield	36	5	9	22	34	84 24

English Division Three						
Notts County	39	20	12	7	72	41 72
Sunderland	38	20	12	6	72	42 72
Walsall	40	19	12	9	60	44 69
Wigan	37	18	11	7	57	37 52
Northampton	37	17	12	9	57	37 52
Brighton	36	14	9	8	52	42 62
Aristol C	37	15	11	6	53	57 56
Brentford	39	15	11	13	44	48 55
Gillingham	39	15	11	13	44	48 54
Fulham	38	15	9	14	51	51 52
Blackpool	36	13	12	11	57	47 51
Bury	39	13	12	14	55	53 51

English Division Four						
Wolves	37	25	10	2	68	31 71
Rangers	38	25	11	7	73	27 73
Heart	37	19	14	4	52	31 52
Aberdeen	37	19	14	4	52	21 52
Dundee	37	16	6	15	65	33 38
Dundee U	37	12	13	12	38	39 37

Scottish Division One						
Hamilton	39	20	10	9	58	32 50
Menziesbank	38	18	11	7	53	32 49
Raith	38	17	7	14	71	63 41
Airdrie	38	14	12	12	60	58 40
Clydebank	38	17	6	15	48	33 40
Forfar	38	12	15	11	58	54 39

Scottish Division Two						
Ayr Utd	33	24	6	3	85	26 54
St.Johnstone	33	21	7	5	63	23 49
Queens Park	33	17	8	8	53	37 42
Brechin	33	17	7	9	49	34 41
Stirling	33	11	7	9	46	41 37
Stirling	33	14	9	10	48	44 37

Uruguayan striker						
PARIS, March 26. (Reuters): Uruguayan striker Enzo Francescoli will not be allowed to leave French First Division soccer club Racing Paris despite asking to be freed from his contract, an official said yesterday.						

NBA matches

NEW YORK, March 26. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday (only games scheduled):

Philadelphia 97 Boston 93 Chicago 101 Cleveland 100 Indiana 101 Portland 101 Dallas 107 Detroit 106 San Antonio 113 Golden State 98 L.A. Clippers 120 L.A. Lakers 119



Tottenham's Gary Mabbutt (2nd left) gets the better of Forest's Brian Rice and Nigel Clough (2nd right) (Reuters wirephoto)

17 points adrift of the leaders.

After their 1-0 setback at Everton it was almost inevitable that Liverpool's next opponents would feel a backlash, and

Beardsley tormented a Wimbleton defence weakened by injury and suspension, and he was only denied a goal to crown his superb individual performance when his 83rd minute effort crashed against the bar.

Liverpool, chasing their second League and Football Association (FA) Cup double in three seasons, went ahead when Steve Nicol crossed from the right and Aldridge looped a header over goalkeeper Dave Beasant.

17 points adrift of the leaders.

England forward Peter Beardsley figured prominently as the leaders seized the initiative.

Beardsley tormented a Wimbleton defence weakened by

Notts County 0 Gillingham